

Somerset County Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 8

J. F. DAVIDSON,

O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

County Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Somerset County Council.

The Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Twelfth Annual Report upon the Health Administration of the County.

The Report generally follows routine lines and it sets out in detail all the necessary statistical information.

This particular Report is notable in that it records for the first time the preliminary arrangements made under the National Health Service Act.

The introduction and early phases of the working of the Act have, to a great extent, been brought under reasonably smooth administrative control. To secure such a result was by no means easy, especially when one regards the vastness of the undertaking and the speed with which it was brought into action. A great deal of further work is required to bring about cohesion and understanding of its various aspects, but certainly progress is steadily being made towards that end.

I would refer to an important feature in the County life of Somerset, that of voluntary help. This factor has been traditional in Somerset over scores of years and through it much useful work, with great benefits to the community, has been carried out. The new Health Act in its early stages has, in some instances, tended to pour cold water on at least some of this voluntary effort and it is frankly a matter of difficulty to unite in some instances, official and voluntary work in a balanced working arrangement. Every effort, however, is being made to minimise these difficulties, and in time I feel sure the necessary adjustment will come about.

For the present, I would express the thanks of my Department to the many voluntary sources in Somerset, both in associations or agencies, and in individuals, for their valued and most useful assistance.

I continue to be greatly assisted by all members of this staff and I acknowledge also the help of associated Departments of the County Council.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. F. DAVIDSON,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Hall,
Taunton.

August, 1949.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres): 1,028,992.

Population (1948): 464,250.

Live Births:—Total 7,878; Legitimate 7,459; Illegitimate 419; Still births 198.

Deaths:—Total 5,181; Urban 2,590; Rural 2591.

Rateable value:—£2,761,847 (1948).

Sum represented by a penny rate:—£11,271 (1948-49).

Birth rate:—16.9. Illegitimate births, 5.32 (per cent.).

Death rate:—11.16.

Deaths under 1 year of age:—194. Rate of infantile mortality:—24.6.

The birth rate shows a decrease from last year's figure (19.62). The percentage of illegitimate births is still high and shows an increase over last year's figure (4.59). The normal illegitimate rate for Somerset was between 3 and 4 per cent.

The death rate (11.16) is lower than for the previous year (14.02). It is satisfactory to record that the rate of infantile mortality is only 24.6. This is a record low level for the County.

The chief causes of death were heart diseases (1,623 deaths), cancer and other forms of malignant disease (910 deaths), bronchitis and pneumonia (299 deaths), and tuberculosis (175 deaths).

The essential statistical returns covering births, infantile mortality, and deaths are given in the following tables from I to V.

TABLE I.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cerebro spinal fever	3	0	0	0	2	0	1
Scarlet fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	148	1	0	1	79	47	20
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	27	0	4	3	13	6	1
Syphilitic diseases	18	1	0	0	3	10	4
Influenza	13	2	0	0	0	3	8
Measles	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	5	1	0	1	3	0	0
Acute inf. encephalitis	6	0	0	0	0	5	1
Cancer of buc. cavity & œsoph. (M), uterus (F)	83	0	0	0	3	35	45
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	173	0	0	0	6	34	133
Cancer of breast	110	0	0	0	6	40	64
Cancer of all other sites	545	0	2	0	23	178	342
Diabetes	28	0	0	0	4	6	18
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	645	0	0	0	10	123	512
Heart disease	1623	0	0	0	16	263	1344
Other diseases of circ. system...	183	0	0	2	7	29	145
Bronchitis	163	0	0	0	6	31	126
Pneumonia	136	20	6	1	10	26	73
Other respiratory disease	78	2	2	0	4	36	34
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	56	0	0	0	2	26	28
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	9	7	2	0	0	0	0
Appendicitis	12	0	0	3	1	4	4
Other digestive diseases	99	1	1	0	12	25	60
Nephritis	191	1	1	0	18	45	126
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Other maternal causes	4	0	0	0	4	0	0
Premature birth	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	102	90	1	3	4	2	2
Suicide	50	0	0	0	14	21	15
Road traffic accidents	55	0	2	5	22	11	15
Other violent causes	104	11	3	4	19	19	48
All other causes	454	4	3	6	40	77	324
All causes	5181	194	29	29	333	1103	3493

TABLE II.

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1948.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AXBRIDGE.	BATHAVON.	BRIDGWATER.	CHARD.	CLUTTON.	DULVERTON.	FROME.	LANGPORT.	LONG ASHTON.	SHEPTON MALLET.	TAUNTON.	WELLINGTON.	WELLS.	WILLITON.	WINCANTON.	YEOVIL.	TOTAL RURAL DISTRICTS.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro spinal fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	8	2	4	4	4	1	2	3	13	6	7	0	4	4	1	5	68
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	0	4	1	0	5	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	19
Syphilitic diseases ...	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	12
Influenza ...	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	12
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cancer of buc. cavity & œsoph. (M), uterus (F) ...	4	3	3	1	3	1	2	2	4	3	3	4	5	4	2	2	46
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	11	7	6	3	11	3	6	6	9	1	4	3	3	2	6	3	84
Cancer of breast ...	5	9	4	6	6	0	4	7	4	2	4	2	2	1	3	4	63
Cancer of all other sites ...	38	18	27	18	14	4	9	20	27	9	19	13	9	18	17	19	279
Diabetes ...	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	11
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	36	29	25	21	24	3	3	12	27	8	25	12	11	22	20	32	310
Heart disease ...	93	77	57	43	62	20	21	33	73	39	62	25	38	50	60	60	813
Other diseases of circ. system..	12	3	4	2	4	3	0	8	7	4	8	6	2	13	14	6	96
Bronchitis ...	4	8	6	5	4	2	5	3	12	3	6	2	3	7	8	5	83
Pneumonia ...	6	4	5	2	4	1	4	3	7	4	4	1	2	8	3	3	61
Other respiratory disease ...	4	5	5	0	4	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	7	3	5	41
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	5	6	1	29
Diarrhoea, under 2 years ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Appendicitis ...	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	9
Other digestive diseases ...	8	1	6	2	5	0	2	3	5	4	1	2	1	1	2	4	47
Nephritis ...	4	13	13	4	5	2	1	3	7	5	3	5	8	5	3	8	89
Puerperal and post-abortion. sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Premature birth ...	2	2	2	0	5	0	2	3	1	2	1	0	1	2	2	2	27
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	8	4	5	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	0	4	4	51
Suicide ...	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	5	0	0	2	2	23
Road traffic accidents ...	3	0	4	1	4	1	1	1	5	2	7	0	1	2	4	2	38
Other violent causes ...	10	5	3	1	1	2	4	2	3	6	4	1	0	6	4	0	52
All other causes ...	27	13	15	18	8	8	4	10	24	12	12	7	9	12	8	23	210
All causes ...	298	217	205	137	182	56	77	131	248	119	179	92	105	175	176	194	2591

TABLE III.

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1948.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	BRIDGWATER.	BURNHAM.	CHARD.	CLEVEDON.	CREWKERNE.	FROME.	GLASTONBURY.	ILMINSTER.	KEYNSHAM.	MINEHEAD.	NORTON-RADSTOCK.	PORTISHEAD.	SHEPTON MALLET.	STREET.	TAUNTON.	WATCHET.	WELLINGTON.	WELLS.	WESTON-SUPER-MARE.	YEOVIL.	TOTAL URBAN DISTRICTS.	COUNTY TOTAL.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro spinal fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	14	1	3	2	1	5	2	0	1	6	1	0	2	1	15	3	0	7	12	4	80	148
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	8	27
Syphilitic diseases ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	6	18
Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
Cancer of buc. cavity & œsoph. (M), uterus (F) ...	6	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	10	4	37	83
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	13	4	1	5	1	8	6	1	2	4	1	4	0	0	12	2	2	5	12	6	89	173
Cancer of breast ...	9	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	6	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	1	11	2	47	110
Cancer of all other sites ...	21	18	2	27	4	11	5	4	4	8	11	8	2	5	40	1	7	2	61	25	266	545
Diabetes ...	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	1	17	28
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	41	17	8	16	5	13	9	3	14	15	15	7	4	5	43	4	5	6	70	35	335	645
Heart disease ...	77	32	9	39	14	58	10	8	23	42	31	6	16	27	114	9	26	16	177	76	810	1623
Other diseases of circ. system...	8	2	3	2	1	6	3	2	6	4	3	0	1	0	17	1	5	4	11	8	87	183
Bronchitis ...	5	2	2	4	1	4	2	0	6	1	7	1	2	1	7	1	4	1	24	5	80	163
Pneumonia ...	12	3	3	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	5	1	1	1	17	1	4	2	13	5	75	136
Other respiratory disease ...	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	3	0	2	0	11	4	37	78
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	5	0	2	1	2	4	27	56
Diarrhœa, under 2 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	5	9
Appendicitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	12
Other digestive diseases ...	4	0	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	7	4	4	1	12	6	52	99
Nephritis ...	9	7	2	10	1	5	1	0	3	2	9	1	2	2	8	2	5	5	23	5	102	191
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	4
Premature birth ...	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	7	23	50
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	6	5	2	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	6	0	1	2	9	6	51	102
Suicide ...	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	5	0	1	1	9	1	27	50
Road traffic accidents ...	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	17	55
Other violent causes ...	11	2	0	3	0	2	1	0	1	4	0	3	1	1	7	0	2	0	8	6	52	104
All other causes ...	21	7	11	27	18	14	3	1	4	10	7	9	8	1	29	2	8	6	37	21	244	454
All causes ...	275	108	54	155	53	142	53	25	72	115	106	47	45	46	354	33	83	61	528	235	2590	5181

TABLE IV.

Table showing, for each Rural District, the number of Births and Deaths, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality.

RURAL DISTRICTS.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under 1 year.	Popula- tion.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Axbridge	446	298	13	25,400	17.63	11.73	29.1
Bathavon	375	217	10	21,400	17.52	10.14	26.7
Bridgwater	355	205	6	19,307	18.43	10.61	16.9
Chard	215	137	4	11,820	18.18	11.59	18.6
Clutton	320	182	11	16,990	18.83	10.71	34.4
Dulverton	83	56	2	4,480	18.52	12.5	24.9
Frome	180	77	6	10,320	17.43	7.46	33.3
Langport	221	131	5	12,830	17.22	10.21	22.6
Long Ashton	419	248	5	24,310	17.47	10.21	11.9
Shepton Mallet	201	119	7	10,760	18.66	11.05	34.8
Taunton	298	179	2	18,490	16.1	9.69	6.7
Wellington	122	92	2	7,900	15.44	11.64	16.4
Wells	169	105	5	9,840	17.17	10.67	29.6
Williton	183	175	4	12,840	14.25	13.62	21.9
Wincanton	275	176	8	16,560	16.6	10.62	29.1
Yeovil	324	194	8	18,670	17.36	10.39	24.7
Totals of Rural Districts	4,186	2,591	98	241,917	17.31	10.71	23.4

TABLE V.

Table showing, for each Urban District, the number of Births and Deaths, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality.

URBAN DISTRICTS.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Bridgwater	451	275	17	22,135	20.37	12.42	37.6
Burnham	164	108	6	9,153	17.91	11.79	36.5
Chard	95	54	3	5,237	18.14	10.31	31.5
Clevedon	128	155	3	9,656	13.27	16.05	23.4
Crewkerne	67	53	1	4,025	16.64	13.16	14.9
Frome	179	142	4	11,410	15.69	12.44	22.3
Glastonbury	74	53	2	5,114	14.47	10.36	27.0
Ilminster	54	25	3	2,688	20.08	9.30	55.5
Keynsham	106	72	1	7,546	14.04	9.54	9.4
Minehead	86	115	4	7,249	11.86	15.86	46.5
Norton-Radstock	199	106	1	11,870	16.76	8.93	5.0
Portishead	78	47	2	4,440	17.56	10.58	25.6
Shepton Mallet	99	45	1	4,680	21.15	9.61	10.1
Street	115	46	1	5,452	21.09	8.43	8.6
Taunton	565	354	14	32,870	17.18	10.77	24.7
Watchet	52	33	0	2,478	20.98	13.31	0.0
Wellington	93	83	1	7,300	12.74	11.36	10.7
Wells	81	61	3	6,030	13.43	10.11	37.0
Weston-s.-Mare	622	528	15	39,710	15.56	13.27	24.1
Yeovil	384	235	14	23,290	16.48	10.09	36.4
Totals of Urban Districts	3,692	2,590	96	222,333	16.61	26.0	26.0
Administrative County	7,878	5,181	194	464,250	16.9	11.16	24.6
England and Wales 1948	—	—	—	—	17.9	10.8	34.0

Blind Persons.

The general work is carried out by the Somerset Blind Association on behalf of, and with a grant from, the County Council. Six Home Teachers were employed by the County Blind Association during 1948. There were 19 Home Workers under the supervision of the Bristol Royal Blind Asylum Workshops. At the end of 1948 there were 901 persons in the County registered as blind, compared with 865 at the end of 1947. Certification by a medical practitioner with special experience in ophthalmology is required before registration. Where possible we make use of the County Oculists for certification purposes and during 1948 they examined 93 cases, 69 of whom were admitted to the register.

Orthopædic Scheme.

The County Scheme, and the results of working during 1948, are described in considerable detail in my report for 1948 as School Medical Officer.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Generally, the Isolation Hospital beds which were available were the same as for the previous year. The cases of notifiable diseases and their distribution are set out in table VI.

The hospital accommodation was found to be adequate for the needs. Staffing difficulties in various hospitals were acute, and this matter gives continual anxiety.

There was a marked decrease in the number of cases of measles and of poliomyelitis. Diphtheria showed only 6 cases against 16 last year. Scarlet fever cases were more and whooping cough showed an increase of over 400 cases.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VI.

	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Dysentery.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica.
URBAN												
Bridgwater	8	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	40	4	7	0
Burnham	18	7	1	0	1	0	0	1	102	14	1	0
Chard	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
Clevedon	3	13	0	0	5	1	0	0	40	5	2	0
Crewkerne	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Frome	4	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	42	0	0	0
Glastonbury	166	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0
Ilminster	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0
Keynsham	71	14	0	0	3	0	0	0	22	5	1	0
Minehead	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
Norton-Radstock	233	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	4	0	0
Portishead	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	1	0
Shepton Mallet	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Street	164	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
Taunton	188	48	1	1	32	1	1	1	42	10	0	1
Watchet	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0
Wellington	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wells	29	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Weston-super-Mare	157	76	0	1	1	2	1	1	130	12	2	0
Yeovil	8	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	90	17	0	0
RURAL												
Axbridge	302	25	0	0	1	1	3	0	167	10	2	0
Bathavon	298	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	68	5	3	0
Bridgwater	13	6	0	0	3	0	0	22	51	14	1	0
Chard	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	6	0	0
Clutton	276	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	10	1	0
Dulverton	28	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	9	0	0
Frome	128	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	80	6	0	0
Langport	138	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	5	0	0
Long Ashton	198	10	0	0	1	0	1	0	73	12	3	0
Shepton Mallet	57	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	11	2	3	0
Taunton	53	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	60	11	1	0
Wellington	24	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	0
Wells	59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Williton	34	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2	2	0
Wincanton	75	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	7	0	0
Yeovil	84	12	0	0	3	1	0	6	38	7	0	0
Urban Districts	1109	202	5	2	49	4	3	5	585	80	18	2
Rural Districts	1775	129	1	1	15	2	6	29	896	109	16	0
Administrative County	2884	331	6	3	64	6	9	34	1481	189	34	2

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The attendances of Somerset cases at the various clinics for the past three years have been as follows:—

Clinic.	New Cases.				Attendances.			
	1946	1947	1948	Increase or decrease during 1948.	1946	1947	1948	Increase or decrease during 1948.
Bath	75 (45)	53 (27)	55 (31)	+ 2	1,188	896	545	-351
Bristol	200(133)	160 (97)	153(116)	- 7	1,567	1,350	1,160	-190
Taunton	127 (59)	97 (55)	63(113)	- 34	1,207	1,023	739	-284
Yeovil	140 (88)	81 (52)	117 (59)	+ 36	965	595	621	+ 26
Bridgwater ...	126 (59)	93 (49)	74 (50)	- 19	1,014	825	329	-496
Frome	26 (17)	21 (16)	18 (11)	- 3	275	121	140	+ 19
Minehead	18 (10)	16 (7)	26 (6)	+ 10	136	146	252	+106
Weston-super-Marc	150(106)	132 (77)	102 (29)	- 30	1,234	1,090	1,067	- 23
All Clinics	862(517)	653(380)	608(415)	- 45	7,586	6,046	4,853	-1193

The table distinguishes between the cases which are definitely venereal and those non-venereal who attended for investigation and diagnosis, the second group figures being in brackets. It will be seen that the figures show a decrease in cases and attendances.

During the period 1st January to 4th July, 1948, the following examinations were made:—

Samples.	For Clinics and Hospitals.	For Medical Practitioners.	Total.
Wasserman ...	393	509	902
Gonococcus ...	—	4	4
Spirochetes ...	—	—	—
Fixation and other tests ...	185	181	366
	578	694	1,272

TUBERCULOSIS.

Year.	Phthisis Death rates.			Other Tuberculous Diseases			Tuberculosis Death-rate.	Deaths in a population of 406,000.	
	Rural.	Urban.	County.	Rural.	Urban.	County.	County.	Phthisis.	All Tuberculosis
1948	0.28	0.36	0.32	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.377	129	153

TABLE VII.

New cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the County during 1948.

Age Periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
1—5	7	6	9	6	0	0	1	3
5—10	13	11	14	10	1	0	2	1
10—15	6	4	9	8				
15—20	30	42	4	6	40	39	4	9
20—25	48	45	7	8				
25—35	82	51	7	10				
35—45	45	29	6	9	31	16	5	1
45—55	53	13	4	4				
55—65	27	13	1	2				
65 and upwards	7	8	1	0	12	8	0	1
Totals	319	223	62	64	85	63	12	15

This table shows there were 84 fewer pulmonary and 14 fewer non-pulmonary notifications than in the previous year. There were 7 fewer pulmonary and 18 fewer non-pulmonary deaths. The tuberculosis death rate shows a slight decrease from last year.

TABLE VIII.
Tuberculosis Notifications and Deaths.

URBAN DISTRICTS.	Primary cases notified.		Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis.	RURAL DISTRICTS.	Primary cases notified.		Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis.
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.		
Bridgwater	29	10	14	0	Axbridge	29	7	8	0
Burnham	8	2	1	0	Bathavon	30	9	2	4
Chard	4	3	3	0	Bridgwater	43	5	4	1
Clevedon	7	2	2	1	Chard	13	3	4	0
Crewkerne	1	0	1	0	Clutton	15	6	4	5
Frome	17	1	5	1	Dulverton	9	1	1	1
Glastonbury	6	2	2	0	Frome	6	3	2	1
Ilminster	1	2	0	0	Langport	17	3	3	0
Keynsham	5	0	1	0	Long Ashton	29	6	13	2
Minehead	15	0	6	0	Shepton Mallet	8	4	6	0
Norton-Radstock	5	3	1	0	Taunton	22	7	7	2
Portishead	6	0	0	0	Wellington	4	2	0	0
Shepton Mallet	4	2	2	1	Wells	10	2	4	1
Street	2	1	1	0	Williton	17	2	4	0
Taunton	59	11	15	2	Wincanton	13	1	1	1
Watchet	11	1	3	1	Yeovil	8	5	5	1
Wellington	9	1	0	0					
Wells	6	0	7	0					
Weston-s-Mare	49	14	12	2					
Yeovil	25	5	4	0					
Totals	269	60	80	8	Totals	273	66	68	19

TABLE IX.
Admissions to Sanatoria during 1948.

Sanatorium.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Quantock	86	63	3	152
Chard	12	52	6	70
Taunton	26	14	1	41
Wincanton	21	0	0	21
Musgrove Park	45	0	6	51
Compton Bishop	0	0	48	48
Bath Orthopædic Hospital ...	1	3	8	12
Other non-county beds ...	34	34	10	78
	225	166	82	473

TABLE X.

Dispensary Attendances.

					Total Dispensary Attendances 1948.
Bath (County)	...	...	...	...	521
Bridgwater	...	...	...	...	2,583
Bristol	...	...	...	...	582
Chard	...	...	...	...	635
Clevedon	...	...	...	...	803
Glastonbury	...	...	...	...	263
Minehead	...	...	...	...	1,017
Radstock	...	...	...	...	723
Shepton Mallet	...	...	...	...	153
Taunton	...	...	...	...	4,806
Weston-super-Mare	...	...	...	...	2,225
Wincanton	...	...	...	...	93
Yeovil	...	...	...	...	853
Totals					15,257

Clinical Report for 1948.

Dr. Kiteat, Senior Chest Physician, has written the following report:—

Since the last report your sanatoria have been taken over by the Regional Hospital Board and are being administered by the appropriate Hospital Management Committee in the area in which they are situated.

The number of cases of suspected chest disease referred to the clinics for investigation again showed an increase, although the actual number of cases of Tuberculosis discovered was less than in 1947.

The number of cases of advanced disease reporting for the first time continued to increase and, with the steadily increasing shortage of nursing staff, it is becoming impossible to provide institutional accommodation for all these cases. So far, we have still managed to avoid closing any of our sanatorium beds but nurses continue to leave without replacement and we shall be very lucky if we do not yet have to do this sometime in the next year or so.

Sanatorium or hospital treatment was given in 473 cases. In addition, many open-air shelters were provided, those in actual use on December 31st, 1948, being 45, which was the number of shelters available. Milk was provided in 699 cases.

Treatment by the use of artificial pneumothorax has been continued and the cases dealt with are shown in the following table:—

	At Dispensary or home of patient.				At Institutions.	Total.
Primary inductions	0		22	22
Refills	3,779		673	4,452

The new cases seen numbered 3,180, and were classified as follows:—

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	T.B. Negative	...	...	350	
	T.B. Positive Stage 1	...	...	12	
	T.B. Positive Stage 2	...	...	102	
	T.B. Positive Stage 3	...	...	46	
				—	510
Non-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	Bones and Joints	...	...	11	
	Abdominal	...	...	10	
	Other Organs	...	...	7	
	Peripheral Glands	...	...	41	
				—	69
Not Tuberculous				...	2,529
Diagnosis not complete on 31st December, 1948				...	72
					—
					<u>3,180</u>

Quantock Sanatorium. The Senior Chest Physician has furnished the following report:—

The Sanatorium has been open for the reception of 111 cases (66 males and 45 females) throughout the year. During this time 152 cases have been admitted, of whom 87 were males and 65 females. 153 patients were discharged, 90 males and 63 females. There was one female death. The average stay for male patients was 262 days and for female patients 239 days. This is an average of 36 weeks for each patient.

Artificial pneumothorax treatment was carried out in all suitable cases. There were 44 inductions, 1,486 refills for patients and 235 for out-patients.

X-ray: 521 films were taken and 742 cases were screened.

13 cases were operated on for Phrenic crush, and 6 cases received Auro-Calcium injections.

The Ministry of Health has now authorised supplies of Streptomycin for certain specified types of cases for 14 beds at the Sanatorium, so that this form of treatment is now available in addition to the other methods.

In March, 1949, Somerset Tuberculosis Service and Quantock Sanatorium suffered a great loss in the death, after a short illness, of Dr. V. C. Martyn, some seven months before he was due to retire. He had been Superintendent of the Sanatorium for over 20 years and the large crowd which attended his funeral on a bitterly cold and snowy day was a tribute to the affection in which he was held by all who had come in contact with him.

RESULTS OF TREATMENT.

WEIGHTS.

Increase in weights in Kilos. (1 Kilo.=2.2 lbs.)

		<i>Less than 6.</i>	<i>6—12.</i>	<i>12 and over.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Males	...	45	11	6	62
Females	...	30	15	9	54

The average gain in weight of { 116 patients weighed on discharge = 6.00 kilos.
 62 male patients weighed on discharge = 5.24 „
 54 female patients weighed on discharge = 6.86 „

The average loss in weight of 29 patients weighed on discharge = 1.91 „

9 patients were not weighed on discharge, including 1 who died and 2 "Not T.B.".

Working capacity of patients on admission and discharge.

		<i>Full Working Capacity.</i>		<i>Fit for light work.</i>		<i>Unfit for work.</i>	
		Admission.	Discharge.	Admission.	Discharge.	Admission.	Discharge.
Males	...	0	5	0	28	90	57
Females	...	0	21	0	8	64	35

On admission all patients were unfit for any work. On discharge 16.89 per cent. of all patients were fit for full work; 23.37 per cent for light work; and 59.74 per cent. were unfit for work.

Classification on admission of patients discharged during 1948.

					Tubercle Bacilli.			
					Positive.		Negative.	
Classification.	M.	F.	Total.	%	M.	F.	M.	F.
Early ...	17	15	32	20.78	0	0	17	15
Intermediate ...	66	42	108	70.12	22	6	44	36
Advanced ...	7	7	14	9.10	4	6	3	1

Complications presented by patients were:—Larynx, Ischio Rectal Abscess, Pleurisy, Bronchitis and Neurosis.

Chard Sanatorium. During the year the cases admitted were 62 pulmonary cases and 8 non-pulmonary (56 female, 14 male).

From the female pulmonary wards there were 51 discharges and 3 deaths; from the female surgical wards 10 discharges. On the male side there were 16 pulmonary cases discharged.

X-ray. 250 films were taken and 494 screenings made. Collapse treatment was again used. 6 inductions and 628 refills were carried out during the year, of which 5 were for pneumoperitoneum and the remainder ordinary artificial pneumothorax cases.

There was a decided reduction in the total number of inductions and refills compared with the previous year as more beds were occupied by infirmary type of cases for whom no treatment could offer any hope. Dr. Pascall reports that he is becoming increasingly convinced that the time for collapse treatment is in the early stages; its use in advanced cases is likely to be disappointing to both the patient and operator.

Staff difficulties have remained at Chard as everywhere else, but Dr. Pascall wishes to thank the matron, sister and staff for their loyal support and efforts during the year.

Compton Bishop Children's Home. During the year 26 boys and 22 girls were admitted, and of these 20 boys and 21 girls were under 10 years of age. The average stay for "definite" (notified) cases was 31 weeks, and for observation cases 23 weeks. The discharges numbered 51, 29 boys and 22 girls, who will be kept under regular supervision at the County Clinics.

TABLE XI.

QUANTOCK SANATORIUM.

Duration of Treatment and Condition on Discharge.

Condition on discharge	1-3 months.									3—6 months.									6-12 months.									More than 12 months.						Totals.			Grand Totals
	1-3 months.			3—6 months.			6-12 months.			More than 12 months.			Totals.			Grand Totals																					
	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.																						
Class TB Minus.	Quiescent	1	1	0	6	3	0	28	29	2	6	2	0	41	35	2	78																				
	Not quiescent	1	0	0	1	2	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	7	8	0	15																				
	Died in Institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																				
Class TB + Group 1.	Quiescent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																				
	Not quiescent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																				
	Died in Institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																				
Class TB + Group 2.	Quiescent	2	0	0	1	0	0	14	7	0	2	0	0	19	7	0	26																				
	Not quiescent	0	1	0	3	1	0	7	0	0	4	1	0	14	3	0	17																				
	Died in Institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																				
Class TB + Group 3.	Quiescent	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1																				
	Not quiescent	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	7																				
	Died in Institution	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1																				

In 61 out of 86 men discharged the disease was quiescent=70.93 per cent. In 42 out of 57 women discharged the disease was quiescent=73.68 per cent. 2 patients (1-3 months) and 1 patient (3-6 months) were discharged as not tuberculous. These patients together with 6 patients who were at the Sanatorium for less than 28 days have not been included in the above figures.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

The County Council, as Local Health Authority, has important duties to perform under parts III and V of the above Act, and particulars of the work carried out since the appointed day, 5th July, 1948, are given under the various Sections:—

PART III.

Section 21—Health Centres.

Some preliminary work has been done, particularly on possible sites for Health Centres in the future. In addition, certain sections of the local medical profession in various areas have been consulted and their interest in the possibility of Health Centres has been tested. On the whole, the practitioners in these areas are not at all enthusiastic about Health Centres under the present conditions and probably their support of any such scheme, at least in the initial stages, would be poor.

It is interesting to note that the practitioners, while holding this view about Health Centres, are most anxious to secure that they should have easier access to the various ancillary services, such as X-rays and laboratory services. They advance the view that if they were enabled to use such ancillary services at their discretion, the conduct of their practices would not only be simplified but a good deal of additional interest would come into their work.

Finally, in Somerset it is clear that Health Centres of any adequate type would have to be built. In my view the conversion of private houses or other existing buildings would be far from satisfactory and might well lead to a very poor class of service for many years.

This matter will be kept under consideration and a further report made in due course.

Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Section 23—Midwifery.

Section 24—Health Visiting.

Section 25—Home Nursing.

Much of the work entailed under these Sections of the Act had been carried out by this Authority prior to the Appointed Day, either by themselves directly or through the agency of District Nursing Associations.

Generally speaking the time that has so far elapsed since 5th July has been one of transition in which services formerly in being have been settling into place in the new scheme, and during which developments of the service have continued, together with the inauguration of new work and general integration with the activities of the Regional Hospital Board. Much remains to be done in this direction but there is already evidence that the new service is getting into its stride and that its outlines are becoming more familiar.

As will be apparent from the approved proposals for this service, much of the work continues as in the past, but I must point out that under the National Health Service Act the Local Health Authority is now responsible for the County as a whole in relation to maternity and child welfare services, and, therefore, the functions of the Boroughs of Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil in this respect have now passed to County control.

However, as provided in the Act, some delegation has been made to Area Sub-Committees in respect of these Boroughs' areas, the effect of which is that the Area Sub-Committees are responsible for the day to day running of the services in their area with submission to the County on major points and questions of policy.

Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Ante Natal and Post Natal Care. The Local Health Authority's scheme for ante and post natal medical care, which was widely used prior to the 5th July, has continued and there is no apparent diminution in the number of ante and post natal medical examinations in spite of the fact that every expectant mother can book a doctor for maternity medical services. It is too early to state whether the use of the scheme will continue at the same level.

The statistics of this scheme are given below together with the figures for the 3 ante-natal clinics which passed to the County Council on 5th July, 1948:—

Year.	Ante-Natal Medical Examinations.		Post-Natal Medical Examinations.	
	No. of cases examined.	No. of examinations made.	No. of cases examined.	No. of examinations made.
1945 ...	—	1,845	—	210
1946 ...	1,636	2,135	228	233
1947 ...	1,878	2,390	229	294
1948 ...	2,306	2,776	450	456

Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics (5th July to 31st December):—

	Cases.			Total Attendances.	
Taunton	248	...	959
Weston-super-Mare	218	...	581
Yeovil	220	...	574

Maternal Mortality:—

	1918	1928	1938	1943	1946	1947	1948
Puerperal Sepsis	8	14	4	6	1	4	2
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	20	12	10	18	6	13	4
Total	28	26	14	24	7	17	6
Rate per 1,000 births	5.14	4.36	2.49	3.13	0.86	1.87	0.74

Dental Care. During 1948 every effort has been made to provide treatment for expectant mothers and nursing mothers in accordance with the approved proposals, but this has not developed so fully as anticipated mainly because of depleted dental staff and lack of adequate premises

Some 20 dental centres are needed in order to cover adequately the County area and so far there are only 4 properly fitted centres, and 4 temporarily equipped clinics. During the year there have also been considerable difficulties with regard to dental personnel. In 1948 there were 11 staff changes with an average of 13 dental officers, whereas 19 were required in order to provide an adequate service.

It is hoped that when staffing difficulties have been overcome and appropriate dental centres provided, the scheme will be able to develop fully along the lines indicated in the proposals.

The table set out below shows the figures for inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers given during the year, and whilst they are an improvement over any previous figures, they are unfortunately only very small compared to the need and actual demand for this service.

Number inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	606
Number receiving treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	449
Number of attendances for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,492
Number of extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,363
Number of general anæsthetics administered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	215
Number of teeth filled	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	429
Number of scalings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Number of dentures supplied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Number of repairs to dentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

In addition to the above, a small number of mothers have received special treatment at the Musgrove Centre. As will be seen, the number of mothers seen in 1948 was 606 which compares favourably with 219 in 1946.

This is a very small proportion of the optimum but the alternative method of securing treatment from a private dentist under the National Health Service is available to all patients.

It is regretted that the prospects for the future are still clouded by this staffing difficulty and that the Authority is still very far from giving the priority service with its guaranteed treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and young children, which it is under obligation to provide under the Act.

Premature Infants. The premature births in the County for the year 1948 were 176, of which 104 were admitted to Hospital Premature Infant Units. The infant mortality rate of premature infants is very high accounting for a large proportion of the total deaths of infants under 1 year. It is necessary, therefore, to introduce special measures for their care.

As a general principle efforts are made to admit every case of premature labour to hospital for confinement but in practice this is often not possible either because of geographical difficulty or lack of hospital accommodation.

For those premature infants who remain at home, one of the Area Assistant Nursing Superintendents, with special experience in this work, visits the home for the purpose of ascertaining that essential equipment and adequate facilities are available and to advise on details of nursing. Where necessary, additional equipment is loaned to the household.

It is hoped to add to the nursing staff of the County Council a limited number of assistant nurses or nursing orderlies specially trained in the detailed care of premature infants, and who would be sent into the home to supplement the nursing already provided by the district nurse.

Premature Births.	1945	1946	1947	1948
Total number of premature births ...		233	306	329
Neonatal Deaths.				
Deaths in hospital or nursing home. .	23	12	13	15
Deaths in own homes	11	25	22	14
	—	—	—	—
Total neonatal deaths due to prematurity	34	37	35	29
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Total deaths of infants under 1 year for 1948 was 194.

Baby Hospital, Bridgwater. The following is a summary of the work to 5th July, 1948, when the Hospital was taken over by the Regional Hospital Board. The reasons for admission were as in the past, mainly nutritional difficulties and prematurity:—

Number in ward on 1st January, 1948	...	...	...	6
Admitted (to 5th July, 1948)	...	...	...	14
Discharged	...	...	...	14

The average length of stay for this six month period was 8 weeks.

Ten made satisfactory improvement, one some improvement, two were transferred to Hospital for operative treatment and one to the care of the County Orthopædic Scheme.

Day Nurseries. These were provided at the following centres and the number of places available is indicated:—

Bridgwater	...	...	...	...	30
Keynsham	...	...	...	...	12
Street	...	...	...	...	40
Frome	...	...	...	...	30
Taunton	...	...	...	...	40
Weston-super-Mare	...	...	...	...	33

Keynsham. Plans are in hand for the adaptation of Hazelwood, Keynsham, to form a 25-place day nursery for children from 0—3 years old.

Street. The Education Committee have requested the return for the purpose of nursery classes of the premises at Hindhayes School, loaned during the war years for day nursery accommodation. This has been agreed in principle and as no alternative accommodation has been found, it is anticipated that day nursery provision in Street will lapse.

Taunton. The need for additional day nursery accommodation is being pressed by the Ministry of Labour and is under consideration.

Treatment and Supervision of Special and Abnormal Children. Infant Visitors refer children showing any abnormality or in need of special care or attention. Enquiries and correspondence in such cases can be grouped under the following heads: Orthopaedic conditions 203, Oculist 57, Blind 2, Ear, Nose and Throat 24, Needing special care owing to ignorance or neglect 9, Mental defects 10, Rickets, catarrhal conditions, etc. 3, Debility and prematurity 55, tuberculosis 6, backward in speech, walking, etc. 4, Extra nourishment needed and given 11, hare lip and cleft palate 4, eczema, skin defects, etc. 6, Feeding difficulties and intestinal disorders 13, Various 18. Total 425.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. During 1948, nine cases were notified and of these seven cases were sent to hospital. The distribution of the cases in districts is shown in the Table.

Birth Control. During the year 1948, the number of applications received for advice and assistance was 48. Two of these were referred to clinics and the remainder to private doctors.

Unmarried Mothers and their Children. Assistance continues to be fully available to all cases referred to this Authority; personal investigation is carried out by one of the area Assistant Nursing Superintendents, and maternity hospital accommodation is offered where necessary. Ante and post natal supervision are arranged and residential accommodation continues to be available, in case of need, at the County Council's hostel at Exmoor House, Dulverton, or in exceptional circumstances at Moral Welfare Homes. It is hoped that alternative accommodation will be available in the near future, Exmoor House being too inaccessible, particularly during the winter months, to allow full use to be made of it.

In suitable instances and with the permission of the patient, cases are referred to the Moral Welfare Worker for the area, whose help is appreciated.

Mothers are encouraged to keep their illegitimate infants and are given help in finding suitable work with this end in view. Where this is not possible the co-operation of the Children's Committee is enlisted in arranging nursery accommodation.

Residential Nurseries. The coming into operation of the Children Act deprived the Local Health Authority of responsibility for these homes, which passed to the care of the Children's Committee with responsibility to the Home Office.

Medical supervision, however, remains with the County Health Department and routine medical inspection has been arranged and is carried out by the whole-time medical staff of the County Council.

Maternity Beds. Prior to the 5th July, the County Council through its Health Committee provided institutional maternity beds in the Mary Stanley Home, Bridgwater, and at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, and obtained other beds by arrangement with hospitals and maternity homes. The type of case then dealt with by this Authority varied from those who were admitted on account of unsuitable home conditions to those whose admission was recommended for obstetric reasons. Fees were recoverable from the patient according to ability to pay.

All maternity accommodation has now been taken over by the Regional Hospital Board and in general, responsibility for admission lies with the Board. Cases fall into three categories, (a) emergency, (b) obstetrically difficult and (c) "social conditions". The Board have asked the Health Committee to undertake as their agents, arrangements for the admission of the "social conditions" group in respect of the whole of the County.

As the demand for hospital beds far exceeds the number available, a system of priority is necessary and every applicant is visited by a member of the nursing or health visiting staff who investigates conditions in the home. A report is submitted and each case is dealt with according to need. This involves much additional work and frequently the decision incurs great disfavour, it not being realised generally that it is impossible to meet all the requests for hospital accommodation.

Prior to 5th July the average maternity admissions arranged by the Health Department in a year were 480, but since that date the demand has increased, and the admissions arranged by the Health Department for the year to 31st December, 1948, were 754 out of 808 applications received.

Consultants for Midwifery Scheme. Under the County scheme 109 cases were accepted and dealt with by consultant officers up to 4th July, 1948, when this specialist service passed to the control of the Hospital Management Committees.

Child Welfare Centres. On 1st April, 1948, in anticipation of its liabilities under the National Health Service Act, the Local Health Authority undertook responsibility for approved expenditure in respect of the 66 Child Welfare Centres in the County. Administration of these centres remains in the hands of Child Welfare Centre Committees whose work and co-operation are much appreciated.

Efforts have been made to extend the work of existing centres by providing additional essential equipment and by encouraging conformity to an approved high standard of work. A survey of the County has been made to ascertain the need for additional child welfare centres, and for transport from the more rural areas.

The appointment of medical officers for child welfare centres is now made by the County Council on a yearly basis and on the recommendation of the local voluntary committee.

Possibly the ideal arrangement for running such centres is to have a local committee as an off-shoot of the District Nursing Association, and thereby effect some co-ordination of local effort. This is not, however, always possible and one has to bear in mind the voluntary effort behind these centres, and to endeavour to persuade, rather than force, local committees to come within the general plan.

Statistics for all centres for the period 5th July to 31st December, 1948, are:—

Year.	Sessions held.	New cases.		Total cases.		Attendances.	
		Under 1	1-5 years.	Under 1	1-5 years.	Under 1	1-5 years.
1948 (part)	1,145	1,928	547	2,901	4,619	22,910	15,476

Sections 23 and 25—Midwifery and Home Nursing Services.

Prior to 5th July, 1948, responsibility for midwifery services lay with the Local Health Authority but as from that date they were required to provide a comprehensive nursing service. This latter work has been undertaken previously by voluntary District Nursing Associations, with

financial assistance from the County Council in respect of midwifery, schools and infant visiting. The nursing staff are now direct employees of the County Council, but voluntary committees retain their interest in the nursing service and accept certain responsibilities in connection with the welfare of the nurse, housing and transport. It is considered of the utmost importance that local committees should retain this function as, without their interest and support, the nursing service is impoverished.

The supervision of the Midwifery and Nursing Services is undertaken by the Senior Medical Staff, County Nursing Officer, her deputy and 4 area assistants, who undertake also special enquiries in respect of neonatal deaths, still births, ophthalmia, puerperal pyrexia, etc.

To cover the Midwifery and Nursing Services adequately it is estimated that a total staff of 250 is necessary. The number at present employed falls considerably short of this.

The majority of the District Nurse Midwives undertake also the visiting of infants under the age of 5 years. In future the Ministry of Health requires that persons undertaking this work shall hold the Health Visitors' Certificate. At present 29 hold this qualification but steps are being taken to extend this as soon as practicable.

Some statistical details of the work of the District Nurse Midwives during 1948 is given below together with details of the staff employed:—

Details of District Staff Employed.

On permanent districts—

Queen's Nurse Midwives with Health Visitors' Certificate	...	29
Queen's Nurse Midwives	... ..	86
State Registered Nurses and State Certified Midwives	...	15
State Registered Nurses	... ..	1
Village Nurse Midwives	... ..	38
Assistant Nurses and State Certified Midwives	... ..	1
State Registered Nurses with Queen's Training	... ..	1
		<hr/>
		171
		<hr/>

Emergency Staff—

Queen's Nurse Midwives	... ..	9
State Registered Nurses and State Certified Midwives	...	5
Village Nurse Midwives	... ..	13
State Registered Nurses	... ..	5
State Registered Nurses with Queen's Training	... ..	1
Assistant Nurses and State Certified Midwives	... ..	1
Assistant Nurse	... ..	1
		<hr/>
		35
		<hr/>

Summary of District Nurse Midwives' Work.

Number of cases attended:—

Medical	...	...	...	...	12,010
Surgical	...	...	...	...	6,624
Midwifery	...	...	...	...	2,306
Maternity	...	...	...	...	1,303
Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	396
Gas and Air	...	...	...	...	704

Number of visits made:—

General Nursing	...	...	...	...	262,303
Midwifery	...	...	...	...	52,129
Maternity	...	...	...	...	26,960
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	34,748
Casual	...	...	...	...	55,031
Schoolchildren	...	...	...	...	5,210
Infants	...	...	...	...	139,119

The number of occasions on which medical aid was summoned in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives' Board was 1,859.

During the year the nurses attended 1,275 school inspections, 2,944 infant welfare clinics, 265 operations and 1,182 deaths.

Analgesia. The training of nurse midwives in the use of analgesics has continued at the Mary Stanley Home, Bridgwater, and at Bristol Maternity Hospital. Of the 206 nurse midwives employed, 114 are qualified in this branch of the work and it is hoped that the remaining members of the staff will receive instruction within the next two years.

County and District Nursing Associations. The position of these in the general scheme of things under the National Health Act and particularly with regard to the arrangements made by Somerset, have materially altered. In this County no provisions have been made to make use of the Associations as agencies in the full sense of the word, but rather to use them in an advisory capacity and to gain their local assistance in caring for the welfare of the nurses, on housing, transport and similar problems and also voluntarily to relieve the nurse of some detailed clerical work. Such Associations provide valuable advice on local nursing conditions and difficulties. In view of their long experience in the years past, it is hoped that the Associations will continue to serve in this voluntary capacity. Local knowledge can be of great assistance and their advice has proved very valuable in many problems.

Section 24.—Health Visiting.

Health Visitors have always been employed directly by the County Council, and their duties have included, briefly, attendance at Tuberculosis, Orthopædic, Minor Ailment and Dental Clinics, together with domiciliary tuberculosis visiting, after-care, supervision of the cleanliness of the school child, and in some cases, infant visiting. School medical inspection work has, in the past, been dealt with mainly by district nurses but much of this has now been transferred to the health visitors who have been able to cope with the additional duties.

The authorised staff for this work is one Superintendent Health Visitor and twenty-five Health Visitors, but as in other branches of the Nursing Service, there is a shortage of Health Visitors and continual re-arrangements of areas and improvisations have to be made to cover the work.

It is hoped, under the proposals for a single Nursing Service for the County, that in the future all nurses, whether employed on district nursing or health visiting duties, will have the same basic qualifications and will be qualified as Health Visitors as is required by the Ministry of Health. This will also help to provide a source for the recruitment of Health Visitors whilst the present nursing arrangements in the County continue.

On the 5th July, 1948, the Health Visitors in the employment of the Boroughs of Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil became members of the County staff. The numbers involved were 5 at Weston-super-Mare, 3 at Taunton and 2 at Yeovil. There has been a vacancy in the Yeovil area for more than 12 months, but it is hoped that it may be filled in the near future.

Section 26.—Vaccination and Immunisation.

(a) **Vaccination.** The accompanying statistical table shews that 701 infants in the 0—1 year age group in Somerset received a primary vaccination in the second half of 1948. This figure represents some 16% of the live births in that period and must be compared with the national average under the compulsory Vaccination Acts (ceased on 5th July, 1948) which shewed that 40% of all children were vaccinated during their first year. This fall under the new system is disquieting, but the new technique in vaccination (multiple pressure method) which is almost painless, causing a minimum of trauma and much fewer and milder reactions, should go far to meet the reluctance of parents to have their children protected against this loathsome disease.

Practically all vaccinations are carried out by general practitioners, the fee for such service still having to be fixed by the Ministry of Health. The fact there are no requests for vaccination at the Child Welfare Centres is probably due to the anticipated need for re-inspection and also to this service being traditionally one carried out by the family doctor. Nevertheless, such facilities are available on request at all County Council Child Welfare Centres.

VACCINATION.

Return for period 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948.

RURAL.

District.	Under 1 1948		1 to 4 1944-1947		5 to 14 1934-1943		15 or over before 1934		Totals	
	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.
Axbridge	33	—	7	—	3	—	5	14	48	14
Bathavon	15	—	4	—	2	—	3	5	24	5
Bridgwater	32	—	4	—	1	2	—	10	37	12
Chard	41	—	1	—	—	—	1	8	43	8
Clutton	17	—	3	—	1	1	3	8	24	9
Dulverton	27	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	27	4
Frome	18	—	2	—	1	—	1	3	22	3
Langport	8	—	—	1	1	—	—	8	9	9
Long Ashton	58	—	8	—	2	—	2	5	70	5
Shepton Mallet	15	1	2	—	—	1	—	2	17	4
Taunton	35	—	2	2	2	—	3	7	42	9
Wellington	19	—	2	—	—	1	1	6	22	7
Wells	18	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	21	1
Williton	32	—	4	1	5	3	3	11	44	15
Wincanton	31	—	5	—	1	1	—	6	37	7
Yeovil	33	—	3	—	—	2	1	11	37	13
Totals ...	432	1	50	5	19	11	23	108	524	125

URBAN.

District.	Under 1 1948		1 to 4 1944-1947		5 to 14 1934-1943		15 or over before 1934		Totals	
	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.	Primary	Re- Vaccn.
Bridgwater	16	2	3	—	2	—	5	5	26	7
Burnham-on-Sea	11	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	14	3
Chard	21	—	3	—	2	—	2	—	28	—
Clevedon	20	—	3	—	—	3	—	4	23	7
Crewkerne	14	—	—	—	3	—	1	3	18	3
Frome	9	2	1	1	—	—	2	3	12	6
Glastonbury	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	5	2
Ilminster	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	7	—
Keynsham	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
Minehead	14	—	2	—	1	—	3	4	20	4
Norton Radstock	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	2
Portishead	5	—	2	—	1	—	4	3	12	3
Shepton Mallet	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Strcet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taunton	33	—	2	—	2	1	5	11	42	12
Watchet	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wellington	20	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	21	4
Wells	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
Weston-super-Mare	44	1	—	1	2	4	8	19	54	25
Yeovil	40	—	3	3	—	2	1	14	44	19
Totals ...	269	5	22	5	15	11	35	79	341	100

(b) **Diphtheria Immunisation.** The returns for 1948 shew a very satisfactory position in Somerset. Table A indicates that the total number of primary immunisations in 1948 were 8,250 compared with the total births in 1947 of 8,850. After allowing for babies who were not immunised in previous years, it is still clear that the vast majority of births in Somerset are immunised at or soon after their first birthday.

To secure such a satisfactory result involves great efforts in organisation and persuasion and it is now timely to review the results which have accrued.

Immunisation was organised on an intensive scale in 1941 and it is instructive to compare the incidence of diphtheria up to 1941 and subsequent to 1941.

This is shown numerically and by graph in Table B and accompanying graph.

	Prior to 1942.	1942-1948 inclusive.
Average annual number of cases ...	342	65
„ „ „ „ deaths...	16	2

The saving of so many lives indicated by the above figures and the relief of so many parents from such dire anxiety, not to mention the easement of pressure on hospital beds and nurses, illustrates in dramatic fashion the value of Immunisation in the field of preventive medicine.

Further to the above, it is of interest to note that the following Isolation Hospitals, Minehead, Paulton and Shepton Mallet (total beds 80) have been closed, largely due to the ever diminishing requirements for diphtheria accommodation.

* The actual immunisations are carried out by the general practitioners and the school medical officers, the latter naturally concentrating on the schools and Infant Welfare Centres, and in 1948 the respective figures were as follows:—

	General Practitioners.	County Staff.
Primary Immunisations in 1948 ...	3,286	4,963
Reinforcements in 1948	41	5,695

It is regrettable that although over a year has elapsed since July 5th, 1948, the Ministry of Health has still to fix the rate of remuneration payable to general practitioners for their work.

Diphtheria Immunisation is an excellent example of a field of work which can be shared with advantage to all by the General Practitioner Service and the Public Health Service, and it is hoped that by such essential co-operation, continued year after year, the virtual extinction of this dreadful disease may be attained.

Experience in continental countries shews that any relaxation in immunisation is followed by a large increase in the incidence of the disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Statistical Position at 31st December, 1948.

TABLE A.

Local Sanitary District.	Total primary immunisations in 1948 (0-15 years)	Total now immunised (0-15 years)	Total reinforcements in 1948.	Total Live Births 1947
RURAL.				
Axbridge	404	3,260	105	441
Bathavon	332	2,860	292	430
Bridgwater	345	2,605	308	390
Chard	192	1,817	174	245
Clutton	351	2,872	84	338
Dulverton	64	618	65	78
Frome	285	1,447	105	198
Langport	127	1,750	187	231
Long Ashton	447	3,114	229	434
Shepton Mallet	129	1,432	199	197
Taunton	282	2,307	200	320
Wellington	117	1,076	86	142
Wells	207	1,316	444	198
Williton	181	1,605	35	224
Wineanton	279	2,161	336	345
Yeovil	279	2,964	88	401
Totals ...	4,021	33,204	2,937	4,612
URBAN.				
Bridgwater	456	2,957	356	522
Burnham-on-Sea	165	1,190	154	171
Chard	138	811	194	98
Clevedon	154	1,144	110	145
Crewkerne	113	635	245	79
Frome	243	1,541	84	193
Glastonbury	46	691	69	96
Ilminster	72	556	21	52
Keynsham	106	1,034	91	129
Minehead	127	758	35	111
Norton Radstock	252	1,922	166	227
Portishead	89	531	44	87
Shepton Mallet	125	652	44	98
Street	103	855	44	110
Taunton	580	5,035	271	665
Watehet	36	454	27	60
Wellington	151	1,093	149	136
Wells	207	906	191	111
Weston-super-Mare	723	4,030	381	690
Yeovil	342	3,867	123	457
Totals ...	4,228	30,662	2,799	4,237
County Totals ...	8,249	63,866	5,736	8,849

DIPHTHERIA.

Notifications and Deaths in Somerset from 1929 to 1948.

TABLE B.

Year. Notified. Died.					Year. Notified. Died.				
1929	...	494	...	30	1939	...	251	...	6
1930	...	790	...	28	1940	...	358	...	15
1931	...	279	...	14	1941	...	437	...	21
1932	...	260	...	17	1942	...	150	...	8
1933	...	218	...	15	1943	...	111	...	1
1934	...	296	...	10	1944	...	54	...	3
1935	...	287	...	16	1945	...	79	...	1
1936	...	187	...	12	1946	...	40	...	0
1937	...	122	...	7	1947	...	16	...	1
1938	...	297	...	14	1948	...	6	...	0

COUNTY OF SOMERSET
DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.



Section 27.—Ambulance Services.

These services were taken over by the County Council as from 5th July last and agreements were made with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society, and the Langport Ambulance Committee, to act as Agents of the County Council in providing a service on lines similar to those in operation before the take-over. An agreement was also made with the Hospital Car Service to continue the previous arrangements.

Both the Ambulance Service and the Hospital Car Service have worked satisfactorily, and the increase in mileage which has taken place since 5th July was not unexpected and is common to other Ambulance Authorities.

It has been necessary to increase the number of full-time driver/attendants employed, as employers are not so willing as formerly to allow men to leave their work during the day to answer ambulance calls despite the fact that loss of time can be reimbursed. This is understandable in cases where men are in "key" positions and their withdrawal would seriously affect the work of other men.

Whilst it has been possible to obtain delivery of new ambulances without much difficulty, some delay has occurred at the body-builders. It is, however, anticipated that by the end of 1950 most of the old ambulances in use on the 5th July, 1948, will have been replaced and the yearly replacements will then be greatly reduced.

Grants have been received from the Home Service Ambulance Committee towards the cost of new vehicles, and this has meant that only approximately one-third of the cost of the new vehicles has to be met out of County funds. The vehicles become the property of the Home Service Ambulance Committee but the Council has the option of taking them over, with a suitable financial adjustment, if the arrangement with the Brigade, or the Society, is terminated.

A new "Bedford" ambulance with Lever body has been provided for the Langport Ambulance Committee who donated the sum of £450 towards the cost, the vehicle remaining the property of the County Council subject to its being available for use in the Langport area for a period of two years if required by the Langport Ambulance Committee, and the service provided by the Committee is run to the satisfaction of the County Council.

The position regarding cars for sitting cases is not so hopeful and up to the time of writing this report—May, 1949—two only have been delivered out of the ten on order. It is hoped that the position will improve in the near future as there is an urgent need for cars, particularly at the main Ambulance Stations.

Use has been made of private car hire, which has some advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are that cars can be requested immediately and often nearer to the pick-up point than through the Hospital Car Service, and cases can be carried by private hire which the Hospital Car Service will not deal with. It is also easier to arrange for combined journeys with private hire, and where cases have to be admitted to hospital at short notice this supplementary service is of distinct value.

The disadvantages are that some hire proprietors charge up to 4/- per hour for waiting. A list of over three hundred car hirers is maintained in the Ambulance Section, and, taking into account the combination of journeys and the relatively greater number of patients carried, it has been found as cheap a form of transport as the Hospital Car Service.

Long distance journeys by ambulance or car are, as a rule, only undertaken on the certificate of a medical practitioner that no other means is practicable in the interest of the patient. Every endeavour is made to send patients by rail in a reserved compartment, and, if necessary, on a specially designed stretcher, to save unnecessary mileage by ambulance or car.

The Ambulance Station at Taunton is inadequate and unsuitable for a main station and the premises are required by the South Western Electricity Board, who are the owners. Arrangements are therefore being made to establish a station in a large hut at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, at a cost of approximately £1,700 for adaptation, with an annual rental to the Regional Hospital Board for a reasonable tenancy. It is hoped that the station will be completed in 1949.

The following tables give the mileages and other details concerning the service:—

AMBULANCE STATIONS.

Mileage Returns.

Ambulance Stations.	Calls and Mileage 5-7-48 to 30-9-48		Calls and Mileage 1-10-48 to 31-12-48		TOTAL	
	Calls.	Mileage.	Calls.	Mileage.	Calls.	Mileage.
St. John Ambulance Brigade.						
Bridgwater	289	4,625	263	7,324	552	11,949
Chard	50	2,175	32	1,196	82	3,371
Cheddar	38	1,276	43	1,750	81	3,026
Clevedon	78	1,878	100	2,252	178	4,130
Frome	75	1,385	100	1,814	175	3,199
Glastonbury/Street	65	2,676	47	2,382	112	5,058
Highbridge/Burnham	149	4,613	131	3,685	280	8,298
Minehead	148	4,004	122	2,570	270	6,574
Norton Radstock	100	2,021	136	2,841	236	4,862
Portishead	88	2,087	110	2,718	198	4,805
Timsbury	21	460	17	443	38	903
Watchet	27	1,180	15	602	42	1,782
Wedmore	11	302	15	706	26	1,008
Wellington	67	1,603	90	1,748	157	3,351
Wells	115	3,350	150	3,804	265	7,154
Weston-super-Mare	1,290	22,333	1,752	17,180	3,042	39,513
British Red Cross.						
Castle Cary	12	546	22	843	34	1,389
Churchill	27	1,087	25	859	52	1,946
Crewkerne	16	267	38	786	54	1,053
Farrington Gurney	10	228	7	192	17	420
Ilminster	18	591	25	723	43	1,314
Norton Radstock	6	138	5	129	11	267
Shepton Mallet	85	2,542	87	2,657	172	5,199
Taunton	415	7,193	401	7,498	816	14,691
Wiveliscombe	6	134	3	60	9	194
Yeovil	321	6,374	372	7,255	693	13,629
Isolation Hospitals.						
Axbridge	43	624	23	550	66	1,174
Shepton Mallet	47	642	26	530	73	1,172
South Petherton	29	503	26	358	55	861
Taunton	43	992	59	1,086	102	2,078
Weston-super-Mare	44	144	7	18	51	162
Langport Ambulance Committee...	33	1,317	38	1,290	71	2,607
Wineanton	29	979	22	485	51	1,464
Bath City	99	1,262	101	1,498	200	2,760
Bristol City	224	2,827	153	3,396	377	6,223
Totals ...	4,118	84,358	4,563	83,228	8,681	167,586

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

Area No.	Area.	3 months ended 30-9-48. Mileage.	Monthly average.	3 months ended 31-12-48. Mileage.	Monthly average.	Total Mileage.
1	Weston-super-Mare	10,682	3,561	14,120	4,707	24,802
2	Clevedon	4,943	1,647	6,343	2,114	11,286
3	Bath	4,488	1,496	4,634	1,545	9,122
4	Frome	4,905	1,635	8,912	2,971	13,817
5	Yeovil	5,325	1,775	11,106	3,702	16,431
6	Crewkerne	3,623	1,208	4,458	1,486	8,081
7	Taunton	8,072	2,691	14,502	4,834	22,574
8	Minhead	3,890	1,297	5,480	1,827	9,370
9	Bridgwater	7,755	2,585	12,011	4,003	19,766
10	Wells	9,631	3,210	16,412	5,471	26,043
Totals ...		63,314	21,105	97,978	32,660	161,292
Bristol City (acting on behalf of County Council)		2,125	708	4,634	1,544	6,759
Grand Total ...		65,439	21,813	102,612	34,204	168,051

NOTE.—A relatively small mileage has been undertaken on our behalf by other Authorities and by private hire cars, but it is not possible to give detailed figures.

FULL-TIME AMBULANCE PERSONNEL AUTHORISED AT AMBULANCE STATIONS.

Up to and including 31st May, 1949.

Station.	Designation of Employee.		
	Superintendent.	Driver/Attendant.	Telephonist.
St. John Ambulance Brigade.			
Bridgwater	—	2	—
Clevedon	—	1	1
Glastonbury	—	2	—
Minhead	—	2	—
Wellington	—	1	—
Wells	—	1	—
Weston-super-Mare	1	6	1
British Red Cross.			
Churchill	—	1	—
Shepton Mallet	—	1	—
Taunton	—	4	—
Yeovil	—	4	—
Radstock Area (Joint)	—	2	—
Reserve for Holiday, etc., Relief	—	3	—
Total ...	1	30	2

Section 28.—Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus. The work of providing medical comforts to patients in their own homes has been delegated to the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade as agents of the County Council. Grants have been made by the County Council to both these bodies so that they may provide an adequate number of depots throughout the County. Each one is to be suitably equipped with an agreed range of comforts. Those articles for which there is not so much demand, such as mattresses, wheel chairs and spinal carriages, will only be carried by the big urban depots, so that the call for any comfort not in stock in a local centre can always be met by application to its suppliers.

There were 58 British Red Cross Society and 25 St. John Ambulance Brigade depots throughout the County when the scheme began in July, 1948. That at Tintinhull has been closed since, owing to insufficient space, but additional depots have been set up at Kilve, Martock, Nether Stowey and Woolavington.

The County Council has approved a scale of nominal charges, but have decided that no charge should be made to persons suffering from tuberculosis. Both voluntary bodies have agreed they will collect the charges to be made. They are also prepared to recover loaned articles from patients when they are no longer needed, and to arrange for their sterilisation and return to stock if they are still serviceable.

In order that the smaller articles in constant demand may be readily available at short notice, each district nurse may carry a stock of medical comforts by arrangement with the nearest depot. The district nurse notifies the officer in charge of any loan from her own stock, and where an article is required which she cannot supply she gives the patient a slip enabling him to obtain it direct from the depot. Alternatively, a patient may obtain medical comforts at the request of his own doctor.

In one instance a request has come direct from a hospital specialising in cases of spinal injury, for the provision of three special handles and chains in the home of a paralysed patient, to enable him to achieve some independence of movement. These are being provided at an approximate cost of £8. In addition to this, again at the request of the hospital, the British Red Cross Society is supplying a hospital type bed, together with other necessary equipment.

Section 29.—Home Help Service.

Under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, a scheme was planned for the provision of a Home Help Service throughout the County. Members of the W.V.S. offered to undertake the day to day running of the Service, and the County Council gladly accepted this offer.

The scheme was made as simple as possible at the outset. Women chosen for their reliability and usefulness were engaged for as much time as they could spare to do such work as they were best fitted for, and in this way a panel of 124 workers was built up by the end of the year. During this period—from 5th July to 31st December—427 householders were provided with help. In each case, the medical need of the applicant was the deciding factor.

Valuable hospital bed space has been saved in many cases by the judicious use of Home Helps. Hospital Almoners have been quick to see the value of this scheme, and where a hospital patient can be assured of a Home Help, she is often sent home sooner than would otherwise be

possible. In the same way, the strength of a patient before admission to hospital can often be conserved with advantage by the use of a Home Help. In maternity cases, where the home circumstances permit, the engagement of a Home Help can again save hospital beds. Priority is always given to maternity cases, and then come cases of all kinds of illness—both acute and chronic. Finally, in a category by themselves, are the old-age pensioners who are too infirm to care entirely for themselves. An hour or two a day, or even only two or three times a week, has often been sufficient to obviate the need for hospitalisation.

The cost of the service has been limited to the payment of Home Helps, and six part-time clerks—one in each of the area offices. This has been offset by the recovery of approximately one-fifth of the cost from the householders. The scheme ranks for 50% Government grant.

After a further 12 months working, it will be much easier to estimate the extent to which this service will be needed and the cost to which we shall be committed. For the present, I can only say that a very promising start has been made to fulfil a need which becomes more apparent day by day.

PART V.

Section 51.—Mental Health Services.

Administration. As from the 5th July, 1948, the County Council, as Local Health Authority, became responsible for the integration of the Services provided under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts 1890 to 1930, and the Mental Deficiency Acts 1913 to 1938, as amended by the National Health Service Act, 1946, into a comprehensive Mental Health Service for the administrative County. The Council submitted proposals under Section 51 of the Act of 1946, to the Minister of Health, and are required to carry out their duties in accordance with these proposals.

The responsibility for the provision of Mental Hospitals for the care and treatment of persons suffering from unsound mind, and of Certified Institutions for the care and training of persons suffering from mental defectiveness, now rests with the Minister of Health, acting through the Regional Hospital Boards who, in turn, have appointed Hospital Management Committees to deal with their management and administration. The Local Health Authority is, however, responsible for the initial care and conveyance to Hospital or an Institution of patients suffering from mental illness and mental defectiveness, and for their after-care.

The Health Committee at their first meeting on the 17th June, 1948, appointed the Mental Health Sub-Committee, consisting of 15 persons, and delegated to them all the powers of the Committee under the Mental Deficiency Acts 1913-38, and the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts 1890 to 1930.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment. The Local Health Authority have appointed nine Duly Authorised Officers, eight of whom serve the County areas, and one being Superintendent Duly Authorised Officer at County Hall, Taunton. These officers, who are under the direction of the Mental Health Officer, as Supervising Officer, have a duty under the Acts to arrange for the admission of persons of unsound mind to Mental Hospitals, or Institutions designated by the

Minister of Health for the reception of persons suffering from mental illness, either as Voluntary patients or under Reception Orders. They are also required to advise relatives as to procedure concerning the admission of patients for whom temporary treatment, under Section 5 of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930, is recommended.

By the Criminal Justice Act, 1948 (Section 24), Courts of Summary Jurisdiction may direct that a person of unsound mind be sent to a Mental Hospital or Institution, on conviction, after hearing the evidence of two duly qualified medical practitioners called by the Court. Duly Authorised Officers may be directed by such Courts to convey prisoner patients to the Hospital or Institution named in the Court Order.

The following cases were dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts during the period 5th July to 31st December, 1948:—

County Area.	Admissions.			Total.	Other Action. Advice, etc. Social Histories.
	Certified Cases.	Voluntary Cases.	Section 20 Lunacy Act.		
Clutton	8	3	—	11	4
Frome	8	6	9	23	13
Minehead	7	3	—	10	2
Shepton Mallet	14	5	—	19	1
Taunton	29	10	—	39	22
Weston-super-Mare	19	4	—	23	11
Wincanton	5	2	—	7	—
Yeovil	10	13	—	23	17
Total ...	100	46	9	155	70

Mental Deficiency. The powers and duties of the Local Health Authority, under the Mental Deficiency Acts, relate to defectives:—

- (a) who are found neglected, abandoned, or without visible means of support or cruelly treated, or with respect to whom a representation has been made to the Local Health Authority by the parent or guardian that he is in need of care or training which cannot be provided in his home;
- (b) who are found guilty of any criminal offence, or in the case of a child, found liable to be sent to an approved school;
- (c) who are undergoing imprisonment or detention in an approved school, or in a mental hospital;
- (d) in whose case notice has been given by the Local Education Authority to the Local Health Authority as provided for in Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944.

The methods of dealing with these patients are broadly as follows:—

- (a) Institutional care and training (which is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board);
- (b) Guardianship, and
- (c) Statutory supervision.

With the exception of defectives brought before the Courts, and those who are placed under statutory supervision, patients are dealt with on the presentation of Petitions to Judicial Authorities appointed by Quarter Sessions, pursuant to Section 10 of the Lunacy Act, 1890.

Occupation Centres. Centres established by the Somerset Association of Mental Welfare at Bridgwater, Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil, for children who are incapable of receiving education at school, have been taken over by the Local Health Authority. It is proposed to open another Centre for the Radstock area. Approximately 45 children are attending these Centres, and it is anticipated that a further 10 to 12 children will attend the new Centre at Radstock, when established. Mid-day meals are provided by the School Meals Service, and in approved cases, transport arrangements are made where local bus services are inadequate, or the cost of bus fares is allowed.

The following statistics relating to mental defectives as on the 31st December, 1948, were submitted to the Board of Control as a report of the work done under the Mental Deficiency Acts during the year:—

I. PARTICULARS OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES AS ON 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

N.B.—No case is entered under more than one heading of (a) or (b) and only "live" cases are included.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) Number of Mental Defectives ascertained to be "Subject to be dealt with":—			
(i) Under Guardianship (under Order)—			
Under 16 years of age	1	1	2
Aged 16 years and over	69	79	148
(ii) In "places of safety"	1	—	1
(iii) Under Statutory Supervision (excluding cases on licence)—			
Under 16 years of age	84	62	146
Aged 16 years and over	82	63	145
Number of cases in (i) to (iii) above awaiting removal to an Institution	20	22	42
(b) Number of Mental Defectives not at present "Subject to be dealt with" but for whom the Local Health Authority may subsequently become liable	520	410	930
Of whom number under Voluntary Supervision—			
Under 16 years of age	19	12	31
Aged 16 years and over	501	398	899
(c) Number of Mental Defectives receiving training:—			
(i) In day-training centres—			
Under 16 years of age	21	16	37*
Aged 16 years and over	6	2	8*
(ii) At home	—	—	—
* Included in (a) and (b) above.			
TOTAL ...	757	615	1,372

II. PARTICULARS OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES ASCERTAINED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) Ascertainment.			
(i) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities (Section 57, Education Act, 1944):—			
Under Section 57 (3)	38	15	53
Under Section 57 (5)	32	20	52
(ii) Other cases reported during 1948 and ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with"	16	11	27
Total cases ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with" during the year	86	46	132
(iii) Other cases reported during 1948 who are not at present "subject to be dealt with" but for whom the Local Health Authority may subsequently become liable	13	4	17
Total number of cases reported during the year	99	50	149
(b) Disposal of cases reported during the year.			
(i) Cases ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with"—			
(a) Admitted to Institutions (by Order) ...	24	20	44
(b) Placed under Guardianship (by Order) ...	1	1	2
(c) Taken to "places of safety"	—	—	—
(d) Placed under Statutory Supervision ...	60	24	84
(e) Died or removed from area	—	—	—
(f) Action not yet taken	1	1	2
(ii) Cases not at present subject to be dealt with—			
(a) Placed under Voluntary Spervision ...	7	2	9
(b) Found not to be defective	4	2	6
(c) Died or removed from area	2	—	2
(d) Action not yet taken	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	99	50	149

III. NUMBER OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES UNDER COMMUNITY CARE INCLUDING VOLUNTARY SUPERVISION OR IN "PLACES OF SAFETY" ON 1st JANUARY, 1948, WHO HAVE CEASED TO BE UNDER COMMUNITY CARE OR IN "PLACES OF SAFETY" DURING 1948.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) Admitted to Institutions	11	11	22
(b) Ceased to be under care	7	3	10
(c) Died or removed from area	5	1	6
TOTAL ...	23	15	38

IV. OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES KNOWN TO THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY.

(a) Number who have given birth to children during 1948:—

(i) After marriage	—
(ii) While unmarried	6

	Males.	Females.
(b) Number who have married during 1948	—	1

Hospital and Institutional Accommodation. The following Hospitals situated in the County of Somerset were designated as Mental Hospitals by the Minister of Health:—

Mendip Hospital, Wells.
Tone Vale Hospital, Norton Fitzwarren.
Barrow Gurney Hospital (Bristol Mental Hospital).

Hospitals and Institutions directed to be used as Mental Deficiency Institutions:—

Leigh Court, Abbots Leigh (Stoke Park Colony).
Rock Hall House, Combe Down (Magdalen Hospital School).

*Sandhill Park, Bishops Lydeard, and ancillary premises at:—

Cambridge House, Long Ashton,
West End House, Shepton Mallet,
Yatton Hall, Yatton,
The Fort, Milverton,
The Parsonage, Milverton.

The following former Public Assistance or Public Health Institutions have also been designated as Mental Hospitals:—

*St. Martin's Hospital, Bath,
Townsend House, Williton,
Clements House, Keynsham,
Rowdens House, Wells,
Ilex Lodge, Axbridge,
Preston Close, Yeovil,

and the under-mentioned premises have been designated for the purposes of Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, as amended by the National Health Service Act, 1946:—

*Weymouth Hospital, Frome (part of the Sandhill Park Group).

* These premises have been approved by the Board of Control as "Places of Safety" under Section 15 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The above Hospitals are controlled by the appropriate Management Committees set up by the Regional Hospital Board, and admit Health Service, and in some cases, private patients. In addition, private patients are admitted to Bailbrook House, Batheaston; Totterdown Hall, Weston-super-Mare, which is a Certified Institution for Mental Defectives; and at Weston Lodge, Bath, patients requiring initial mental treatment or diagnosis are admitted.

The Board, through its various Hospital Management Committees, has made it possible for all classes of Somerset patients to continue to be admitted to Hospitals and Institutions within its area and there is the fullest co-operation between the administrative staffs.

There has, however, been no increase in the accommodation available in Hospitals for either mental or mentally defective patients. In the case of the latter the position has been particularly acute, and it has only been possible to admit fresh cases as vacancies occur. On the 31st December there were 40 cases on the waiting list for Mental Deficiency Institutions, most of these being young children of low mental grade, whose presence in their homes has become a very serious burden to the parents.

Community care of patients on licence from the Mental Deficiency Institutions has continued to be carried out by the Local Health Authority through the Mental Health Visitors. The Duly Authorised Officers are also assisting in the supervision of some of these patients.

Staff. The staff employed in the County Health Department on Mental Health Services is as follows:—

(a) **Medical Officers.**

The County Medical Officer of Health and the Deputy County Medical Officer of Health are engaged part time in mental health service work for administration. There are four Medical Practitioners approved by the Local Health Authority for giving certificates under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and for making recommendations under Sections 1 and 5 of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930. These officers are engaged part time on a sessional basis. The total medical staff is, at present, six.

(b) **Non-Medical Staff.**

The Mental Health Services are supervised by a full time Mental Health Officer, assisted by an Administrative Assistant. There are three Mental Health Visitors, an Organising Instructress for Occupation Centres, and four Supervisors for the Occupation Centres at Bridgewater, Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil, together with the Superintendent Duly Authorised Officer, and eight Duly Authorised Officers for the County areas.

(c) **Clerical Staff:—**

Senior clerks (male)	2
Senior clerk (female)	1
Clerk (male)	1
Clerks (including shorthand-typists) (female)	5
	—
	9
	==

Of the non-medical staff, all officers are full time with the exception of four of the Duly Authorised Officers who are also Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and are thus engaged part-time for Mental Health Services work.

By arrangement with the Clerk of the County Council, the Duly Authorised Officers also carry out certain welfare duties and some investigations at the request of the Children's Committee.

The Mental Health Officer and Administrative Assistant for Mental Health Services are Petitioning Officers under the Mental Deficiency Acts and are Duly Authorised Officers. The Mental Health Visitors (3) are also appointed Duly Authorised Officers in special circumstances.

Arrangements have been made with the Tone Vale Hospital Management Committee for suitable training to be given to non-medical Mental Health Workers in all such duties as are new to them in the field of Psychiatric Social Work, and a course of lectures has been given by arrangement with the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital. Training has also been given to the Officers in social work under the Mental Deficiency Acts by the Mental Health Officer.

Mental Health Clinics. It is proposed that in the course of time a Mental Health Clinic shall be established for each of the County areas, but this proposal has yet to be developed. There are several factors involved in this which has made early decision impracticable. At present, how-

ever, there are clinics at Bridgwater, Minehead, Taunton and Yeovil, operated by Tone Vale Hospital, and at Wells and Weston-super-Mare, operated by the Mendip Hospital. Mental Health Clinics established by Hospitals in Bristol and Bath County Boroughs at present serve part of the northern area of the County.

The clinics are held regularly at the following centres:—

Name of Clinic.	Started.	Medical Officer.	No. of Sessions.	New cases seen.	Average attendance per Session.
Bridgwater Health Centre	Dec., 1932	Dr. K. C. Bailey...	202	461	16
Minehead Hospital	July, 1946				
Taunton Hospital	Nov., 1945				
Yeovil Hospital	April, 1931				
Mendip Hospital	May, 1946	Dr. J. McGarvey...	40	17	2
Weston-s.-Mare Hospital	May, 1938		23	45	5

After-care. After-care arrangements for persons attending Mental Health Clinics, or on leaving Mental Hospitals, are also the responsibility of the County Council, and Duly Authorised Officers take part in the arrangements on the advice of the Medical Superintendents of the Hospitals in the County concerned. The Mental Health Visitors who deal specifically with the welfare of mental defectives, co-operate in special circumstances.

The Local Health Authority have accepted responsibility, pursuant to Section 28 (1) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the maintenance at Holiday Convalescent Homes of patients requiring rest after treatment at Mental Health Clinics, and in such other cases as may be approved by the Chairman of the Mental Health Sub-Committee in consultation with me.

Voluntary Association. The Local Health Authority have continued full co-operation with the Somerset Association for Mental Welfare, and in this way local knowledge, information and advice has been freely available to the Mental Health Workers. The Authority assumed financial responsibility for the approved activities of the Association as from the 5th July, 1948, including the salaries of the paid workers and their expenses. The Association are acting as the Agent of the Authority for an initial period of one year, and the services of their voluntary workers and visitors have been utilised.

Ambulances. Arrangements have been made for the use of vehicles in connection with the Mental Health Services Scheme. The Duly Authorised Officers may book an ambulance or sitting-ease car through the Authority's General Ambulance Scheme, for the removal of Mental Health patients. Where necessary, the Duly Authorised Officers are able to apply for the assistance of trained staff from the Mental Hospitals for the removal of cases of special difficulty.

General. The main feature of the work under the Mental Health Scheme is that the re-organisation necessitated by the changes brought about by the National Health Service Act, on the 5th July, 1948, has been relatively smooth in operation. The Scheme, as it stands, is not fully implemented, and indeed, improvements can only be made in the light of experience. As the staffing and accommodation problems of the Hospitals are resolved, the difficulties regarding admissions to Hospitals and Institutions will no doubt begin to disappear. This is a long term view, but when these problems are solved, and the Psychiatric, Medical, and Social Services envisaged in the Proposals can be augmented, the Scheme will, I believe, fully meet the requirements.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The extension of piped supplies during the year was mainly confined to new housing estates. Walton, in the Wells rural district, received a main supply, and the position in the higher parts of Clutton was improved. Other works carried out concerned the installation and improvement of chlorinating plants.

The long awaited scheme for the eastern parishes of Langport is now in stage II of its implementation. It is hoped that consent will be forthcoming in respect of stage III, which will mean a piped supply to the most eastern and northern parishes in the district. Such a supply is badly needed, not only by domestic consumers, but by agricultural interests as well. The production of milk of the highest possible standard cannot be achieved without an adequate and wholesome supply of water.

Following the progress made in the Langport district, the rural areas now in most urgent need are those of Wells and Frome followed by Shepton Mallet, Taunton and Wellington. Many other districts are finding it necessary to augment their sources of supply due to the ever increasing demands.

The question of cost enters largely into the provision of supplies, particularly those to scattered areas. Grants are available through the County Agricultural Executive Committee respecting piped supplies to farm premises. These are generally to the individuals making application. As agricultural interests predominate in many semi-remote areas of the County a suitable grant by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries direct to the local authority concerned, would help considerably in easing the burden on the rest of the district and speed the laying on of piped supplies where they are urgently needed.

A number of fairly large schemes are in the pending stage; when these become effective the needs of the respective districts will be met and there should be a good reserve to allow of future development.

No long droughts were experienced during the year and as a result complaints of water shortage were few. Consumption per head of the population is rising rapidly and existing sources are now found to be inadequate. Many of these small sources, particularly where pumping is necessary, will have to be superseded by schemes which not only provide for immediate needs but allow for expansion and extension to wider areas. Such work will ensure proper staffing and as a result control and supervision should be more efficient.

Details of the works carried out during the year by the various district authorities together with schemes that are under consideration are appended.

Urban Areas.

BRIDGWATER. No extensions were carried out during the year but the following works are under consideration :—

Proposed extension from Durlough Road to Hamp Estate to improve the pressure in this district.

Proposed High Level Reservoir at Spaxton to improve distribution throughout the town.

BURNHAM. A small extension was made to the 3in. main in Westfield Road, Burnham.

Consideration is being given to the provision of a new borehole at Winscombe to replace the existing one.

CHARD.	}	No extensions or works carried out during the year.
CLEVEDON.		
FROME.		

GLASTONBURY. A permanent Chlorinating Plant was installed on the High Level System.

Works to render the Edgarley Reservoir water-tight were completed.

Works commenced on the installation of a Booster Plant on the Trunk Main from West Compton.

A scheme for supplying the higher parts of the Borough (including a new reservoir) was commenced.

The erection of a Pumping Station over No. 2 Borehole at West Compton and the provision of a duplicate pumping plant was completed.

ILMINSTER.	}	No extensions or new works carried out during the year.
KEYNSHAM.		
MINEHEAD.		

NORTON RADSTOCK. Extensions were made to three new housing sites.

Overhaul and improvements made to the Chlorination Plant at the Chilcompton supply.

PORTISHEAD. An extension was made to supply the West Hill housing site.

SHEPTON MALLET. Extensions were carried out to afford supplies to houses and to new housing sites.

STREET. A bulk supply was afforded to Walton in the Wells Rural District.

TAUNTON. No extensions or new works were carried out during the year.

WATCHET. No extensions or new works were carried out during the year but the Watchet Water Company have schemes under consideration for augmenting the existing supplies which in the past have been insufficient to meet the needs of the area.

WELLINGTON. No extensions or new works were carried out during the year.

WELLS. The sinking of a duplicate borehole on the Athletic Ground is under consideration at an estimated cost of £4,500.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Main extensions to serve new housing sites were carried out during the year.

YEovil. Extensions to serve the new housing sites at Larkhill and Milford were made.

With regard to the serious shortage felt in times of drought negotiations are in progress with neighbouring authorities with a view to increasing the supply.

Rural Areas.

ANBRIDGE. Extensions were carried out at:—

Bleadon to Uphill	...	...	160 yards 3in. main.
Langford Station area	...	...	513 yards 3in. main.
Banwell	...	...	25 yards 3in. main.
Hutton	...	...	170 yards 3in. main.
Duck Lane, Churchill	...	...	166 yards 3in. main.
Twinbrook, Burrington	...	...	3,250 yards 3in. main.
980 yards 3in. main to serve various housing sites.			

Improvements were also carried out to the Dunycatt Springs Development and the electrification of Cross Well.

Future proposals include:—

	Estimated cost. £
Congresbury (Brinsea Batch)—2,220 yards 3in. main	2,464
Wrighton Hill, Wrighton—583 yards 3in. main (including the taking over of existing mains)	2,103
Moorlane, Locking—550 yards 3in. main	1,503

Augmentation works affecting existing supplies and improvements to Store Depots.

BATHAVON. The supplementary supply to Peasedown St. John and district with the village of Wellow was commenced. The mains were extended to supply the hamlet of Wick Lane, Camerton. Extensions of the Bath Corporation mains to serve Charcombe and Fosse Lane, Bathampton, were also completed.

Future proposals include:—

	Estimated cost. £
The West Gloucester Water Company's scheme to supply the villages of Northstoke, Kelston, Newton St. Loc, Corston, Burnett and Compton Dando to which the Ministry of Health has given approval	34,500
Extension of the mains at Peasedown St. John to serve the village of Dunkerton	5,700

BRIDGWATER. A connection was made between the R.A.F. main and the Middlezoy main, greatly improving the supply to the whole area.

A booster station erected on the Bath Road has enabled the Polden Hills to have a constant supply.

Minor extensions of mains have been made to supply the Council's new housing sites.

Future proposals include:—

	Estimated cost. £
A scheme for Over Stowey	21,500

Consideration of the Council's Long and Short Term proposals is being given.

CHARD. An extension was made from Crossways, Tatworth, to Chilson and a rising main laid from Stowell Mead, Tatworth, to Two Ash Reservoir.

Future proposals include:—

	Estimated cost. £
New pumping station and pumping equipment at Stowell Mead, Tatworth	1,653
3in. Extension to Newtown, Buckland St. Mary	1,200
3in. Extension to Golden Fleece, Tatworth and Bridge, Ammersham and Winsham	2,100

Regional augmentation scheme to be carried out in the following priority order:—

Duplicate Borehole at Pole Rue, Combe St. Nicholas.
Extension to Wadeford and Foxden Hill, Chard Parish.
Reservoir at Egwood Hill, Merriott.
Reservoir at Pole Rue with gravitation main to Pretwood and Merriott.
Extensions to Wambrook, Whitestaunton, Buckland St. Mary, etc.

CLUTTON. As a result of the laying of 1,820 yards of 3in. main in the Clutton Parish supplies to higher points in the parish have been considerably improved both with regard to quantity and pressure.

Future proposals include:—

	Estimated cost. £
Augmentation of the supplies to the Downside Abbey area, <i>i.e.</i> the parishes of Ston Easton, Farrington Gurney, High Littleton, Cameley, Clutton, Paulton, Farmborough and Timsbury	25,000

Tenders are being obtained for machinery to boost the supplies obtained from the Bristol Water Works Company's mains at Widcombe, East Harptree for White Cross, Hallatrow and High Littleton.

DULVERTON. No extensions were made during the year but consideration was given to a scheme to supply Huish Champflower at an estimated cost of £1,800.

FROME. Except for the collection of water from an additional spring at Whitehole Hill to augment the Coleford supply in the parish of Kilmersdon no extensions or improvements were carried out during the year.

The Council have approved in principle schemes of supply to the following parishes (given in order of priority):—

1. Hemington (Faulkland).
2. Lullington (Laverton).
3. Beckington (Standerwick and Rudge).
4. Norton (Farleigh Hungerford).
5. Tellisford.
6. Berkley.

The sources of supply will be from:—

- (a) A new well at Norton St. Philip.
- (b) Bulk supply from Westbury and Warminster Rural District Councils, and
- (c) Bulk supply from Shepton Mallet Rural District Council.

LANGPORT. Stage II of the Eastern Parishes scheme was started in April, and will supplement the supplies to Aller, Langport, Huish Episcopi and afford a new supply to High Hain and Pitney. The work comprises the provision of rising mains and two new reservoirs.

It is hoped that the Ministry of Health will give approval to Stage III of the scheme so that the necessary works may be commenced. The works include the laying of mains to supply the following parishes:—Compton Dundon, Kingweston, Barton St. David, Keinton Mandeville and Babeary and in addition will augment the supply at Somerton and Long Sutton.

The cost of Stage III is estimated at £110,372.

LONG ASHTON. The following improvements of supplies were made during the year:—

Abbots Leigh—Extension of the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains to Blackmoor Road and Pill Road.

Winford—Extension of the Winford supply mains to Harper's Batch and Hanging Grove areas of the parish.

Wraxall—Extension of the Portishead Water Company's main to the Chantry, Failand.

Proposals under consideration in Priority Order include:—

By Bristol Waterworks Company—

	Estimated cost.
	£
1. <i>Backwell</i> —Extension of main for bulk supply from Axbridge Rural District Council to supply dwellings at Downside	200
1. <i>Barrow Gurney</i> —Extension of main to Barrow Hill and district	7,274
1. <i>Dundry</i> —Provision of mains to Dundry	35,591

By Portishead Water Company—

1. <i>Easton-in-Gordano</i> —Extension of main to Haberfield	2,000
2. <i>North Weston</i> —Provision of main supply to replace standpipe supply to Redcliffe Bay area	21,218
3. <i>Clapton-in-Gordano</i> —Extension of main to village	7,000

By the Council—

1. <i>Yatton</i> —New Borehole, pumping plant, increased storage and pumping station	15,100
1. <i>Kingston Seymour</i> —Provision of mains supply from the Yatton source	14,000
1. <i>Kenn</i> —Extension of Yatton supply towards Kenn Court Farm	1,564

SHEPTON MALLET. The supply to the Southern Parishes was improved by works carried out during the year in connection with the collection of additional water from springs in the Farncombe Valley.

The laying of new distribution mains in the West Bradley and Hornblotton areas was completed.

A scheme has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the utilisation of water sources at St. Dunstan's Well and Ashwiek Grove. This water will augment the existing supplies and give a bulk supply to the Frome Rural District Council. Application has been made to the Ministry of Health for approval.

TAUNTON. A new service was provided from the Taunton Corporation main to the Bathpool area. The Corporation's main was also extended to housing estates at Bishops Hull, Creech St. Michael and West Monkton. The main at Staple Fitzpaine has been duplicated.

Future proposals include the provision of main supplies to the following parishes (given in Priority Order):—

Cheddon Fitzpaine ...	Pyrland, Lyngford, Rowford and Upper Cheddon.
Churchstanton ...	Churchinford, Stapley and Willand.
Creech St. Michael ..	Adsborough, Coombe, Worthy Lane, Langaller.
Durston	Village.
Kingston	Mill Cross, Village, Greenway, Fulford, Nailsbourne, Dodhill, Pickney and Yarford.
Otterford	Bishopswood.
Pitminster	Higher Blagdon, Duddleston.
Stoke St. Mary ...	Village and Broughton Lane.
Tolland	Village.
West Hatch	Village and higher portion of parish.
West Monkton ...	Village, Cherrygrove, Deep Lane, Overton.

WELLINGTON. Following a Ministry of Health Inquiry approval in principle has been given to extend the mains to give a supply to (a) the Parishes of Sampford Arundel, Wellington Without and Thorne St. Margaret, the source of supply being from the Tiverton Rural District Council's main at Nicholashayne; (b) the Parish of Oake from the Taunton Corporation's main at Bradford-on-Tone.

WELLS. The laying of the main to give Walton a piped supply was commenced.

Future proposals include:—

The provision of a main supply to Walton and Meare at an estimated cost of £32,000.

A Northern Parishes scheme to supply Draycott, Rodney Stoke, Westbury, Easton, Wookey and Coxley.

WILLITON. Extensions were made to housing sites at Dunster and Williton.

Future proposals include the augmentation of the Cutcombe supply.

WINCANTON. Improvements have been effected by the laying of a new 6in. main from the Milborne Port pumping station to the High Level and Low Level Reservoirs.

The obtaining of a temporary supply to augment the Queen Camel system from certain of the Cherwell springs.

Consideration is being given to schemes for finding sufficient water to meet the demands throughout the whole of the district. The estimated need is 300,000 gallons per day. One scheme is to provide extra water from the Penselwood area and the other is to obtain water from Thornford in Dorset by arrangement with the Sherborne Rural District Council.

YEOVIL. At Martock a 3in. main was extended for about 1,500 yards to serve the Parrett works.

A scheme to give a main supply to Closworth Village was commenced.

The construction of a 1,000,000 gallon service reservoir at Odcombe was started.

A comprehensive scheme of water supply comprising a large impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham and large trunk mains throughout the district to link up most existing mains has been prepared and will be shortly submitted to the Ministry of Health.

The estimated cost of the scheme is £750,000.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year works of sewerage mainly concerned new housing sites. The Somerton extension scheme was commenced which, when completed, will permit of 110 houses being connected to the sewer.

The reconstruction of the disposal works at Chard were completed and it is hoped that the new purification plant at Wincanton will be ready to operate early next year. Drainage improvements in Corfe village were carried out.

Schemes estimated to cost over £100,000 are being considered. To provide main drainage and modern treatment works is a costly business to-day, post-war prices are high, in some cases they are 120 per cent. above those ruling prior to 1939. The position, however, has got to be faced, if modern amenities are to be provided.

The yardstick of the Ministry of Health is being applied where schemes exceed £50 per property or £100 in more complicated schemes and in exceptional cases £120. Proposals particularly in rural areas usually exceed these figures, some after severe pruning. Where the ground is flat and pumping of the sewage is necessary, the cost per house is naturally much higher. Until prices drop appreciably the provision of main drainage in many parts in the near future is unlikely.

Works carried out during the year and schemes under consideration are as follows:—

Urban Areas.

CHARD. New disposal works are being constructed and it is hoped the work will be completed in 1949.

CLEVEDON. An extension of sewers to the new housing site at West End was made and will serve 140 houses.

FROME. Reconstruction of the outfall sewer and purification works is under consideration.

GLASTONBURY. The following works were put in hand:—

- (a) Relaying of a section of the sewer in Benedict Street.
- (b) Laying of a new sewer from the Windmill housing site.
- (c) Remedial works at Northload Bridge sewage pumping station.

A scheme has been prepared for new sewage disposal works with provision for dealing with the trade wastes from two skin-dressing factories. Both factories have agreed to the scheme in principle and negotiations are proceeding respecting terms, etc.

MINEHEAD. Extension of sewers to serve 78 houses and flats at Periton were completed during the year.

NORTON RADSTOCK. No extensions of sewers were carried out during the year but connections were made to 100 houses from the existing sewers. 22 earth closets were converted to water carriage system.

A scheme is under consideration to provide sewerage in the Thicket Mead area, Midsomer Norton, at an estimated cost of £7,000.

STREET. The treatment of sewage from Walton in the Wells Rural District is under consideration.

WELLS. Except for extensions of the sewers to serve new housing sites no major works were carried out.

Reconstruction of the sewage works is under consideration at an estimated cost of £80,000.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. To serve the Bournville Housing Estate, site No. 9, 1,433 yards of 9in. and 6in. sewers were laid.

YEOVIL. The only extensions to sewers took place in the Larkhill and Milford areas. These were to provide drainage for new housing sites.

Further improvements to the existing sewage disposal works were carried out in an endeavour to improve their efficiency.

The plans for new purification works have now been completed. The estimated cost is £208,203.

Rural Areas.

AXBRIDGE. 2,280 yards of 6in. sewers were laid in connection with the Council's housing sites and 11 sewage disposal works provided.

Schemes under consideration include:—

	Estimated cost. £
Axbridge with Cross	36,709
Congresbury, Wrington and District	41,604

BATHAVON. Except for the extension of sewers to serve new housing sites no other works have been carried out.

Schemes under consideration include:—

	Estimated cost. £
Sewerage and sewage disposal for the parishes of Wellow, Camerton and Dunkerton	120,000
Sewerage and sewage disposal for the village of Freshford	15,000
Sewering of the London Road area, Bathford.	

BRIDGWATER. No main sewer extensions were made during the year except those to serve the Council's Housing Estates at North Petherton, Puiton and Ashcott.

Future proposals include works for Cannington and the Northern Group of Parishes.

CHARD. No extensions or works carried out during the year.

CLUTTON. No major extensions or disposal works were carried out or provided except to serve new housing sites.

New works under consideration are for the parishes of Chilcompton, Paulton and High Littleton. The trunk sewer draining these parishes will connect with that of the Bathavon R.D.C. in the Cam Valley.

A sewer extension is also contemplated at Radford, Paulton.

DULVERTON. No extensions or works were carried out during the year.

Consideration is being given for sewerage and sewage disposal for the following parishes:—

Winsford, Brompton Regis, Withypool.

LANGPORT. The Somerton Sewage Extension Scheme was commenced in November and will provide drainage for approximately 110 houses and open up several sites for building plots in the west end of the town.

LONG ASHTON. The new effluent drain for the Backwell sewage works was completed during the year, and minor extensions to new housing sites.

The following works are proposed:—

	Estimated cost. £
<i>Yatton</i> —New pumping plant and rising main at Yatton Sewage Pumping Station. The Ministry of Health has allocated a starting date—the 15th March, 1949	11,900
<i>Portbury</i> —Sewage Scheme to village in conjunction with new housing estate	5,200
<i>Flax Bourton</i> —Improvements to Cambridge House Sewage Disposal Works	1,200
<i>Nailsea</i> —Sewerage and sewage disposal to parish	83,000
<i>Kenn</i> —Sewerage and sewage disposal in conjunction with new housing estate	4,800

SHEPTON MALLET. To obviate a nuisance at Ditchat a 12in. sewer was laid.

Consideration is being given to provide schemes for the parishes of Stoke Lane, Gurney Slade, Crosecombe and Stratton-on-Fosse.

TAUNTON. New disposal works were provided at Corfe and a new sewer for part of the village.

Proposals under consideration for the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal concern the following parishes in priority order:—

Bishops Hull (Shutewater Hill), Hatch Beauchamp, Staplegrove, Pitminster, Trull parish including Comeytrowe but omitting Dipford area. Corfe, West Monkton, Norton Fitzwarren (Station Road and southern part of parish), Ruishton, Creech St. Michael (village as far as Police Station but excluding higher part of parish and Ham).

WELLINGTON. Following a Ministry of Health Inquiry approval in principle has been received respecting the proposals for sewerage the village of Langley (Wiveliscombe Without) and the reconstruction of the Style Sewage Disposal Works at Wiveliscombe.

Consideration has been given to the following schemes in Priority Group I:—

	Estimated cost. £
<i>West Buckland</i> —Sewage Disposal	2,800
<i>Fitzhead</i> —Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	6,500
<i>Sampford Arundel</i> —Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	7,500
<i>Milverton and Wiveliscombe (Hillmoor)</i> —Sewage Disposal Works — Recon- struction.	

WELLS. To abate a nuisance a sewer ditch at Mildred Road has been piped.

Future proposals include the provision for sewerage and sewage disposal for the following villages:—

Draycott, Rodney Stoke, Easton, Westbury, Walton and Baltonsborough.

WINCANTON. Substantial progress has been made towards the completion of the Wincanton Sewage Works and it is hoped the works will be operating early in 1949.

Schemes are under consideration for the following:—

	Estimated cost. £
Templecombe	32,000
North Cheriton	7,500
Sutton Montis	5,500

YEOVIL. The Chilthorne Domer Scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal has been approved by the Ministry of Health and the work will shortly be commenced. The estimated cost is £9,500

Schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for the following parishes are also well advanced:—

	Estimated cost. £
Ilchester	16,500
Mudford	8,000
East and West Coker	60,500

RIVER POLLUTION.

Although pollution of the main rivers continued through the year, comparatively speaking, there was little loss of fish life. The rivers most badly affected are the Axe, Brue, Tone, and Yeo. Both industry and local authorities are involved. Improvements have taken place and consultations with the River Pollution Research Board and other similar bodies have taken place with a view to reducing the harmful effects of certain trade wastes on rivers. With regard to the local authorities, schemes have been prepared to provide new works to replace those worn out and overloaded. It is essential if further serious pollution is to be prevented that all possible steps be taken to make existing plants function at their maximum efficiency as it is likely to be some time before new treatment works are constructed and become operative.

Inspections of rivers and watercourses have been fully maintained and many samples of river water and sewage effluents have been taken. The time factor is of the greatest importance as on many occasions when complaints are being investigated, the evidence of the cause of the pollution has disappeared due to the time that has elapsed between the actual time of the pollution and the date the department receives the complaint.

The River Boards Act, 1948, came into operation during the year. This Act provides for establishing river boards and for conferring on or transferring to such boards functions relating to land drainage, fisheries and river pollution and certain other functions.

The main rivers affected during the year were as follows:—

RIVER AXE. Pollution has been caused by the trade waste of a Paper Mill which discharges into the river. An evaporating plant has been installed to reduce the volume of waste water but conditions are still far from satisfactory. Discussions have taken place between the Paper Mills Research Association and Water Pollution Research Board concerning the whole problem of paper mill effluents.

RIVER BRUE. A scheme is being prepared for the provision of a new disposal works which will ultimately deal with the trade wastes from two skin-dressing factories. Negotiations are proceeding regarding terms, etc.

RIVER BRUE. Numerous dead fish were reported at Aqueduct Crossing opposite the outlet from the Old Canal in the last week of July. After investigation it was concluded that the fish had died following the de-oxygenation of the river caused by the high atmospheric temperature of the two previous days.

RIVER CARY. A report was received that oil was discharging into the river below Somerton. The oil was traced to the Somerton Gas Works where an old drain had been opened and the oil had gained access. This drain discharged into a small stream running into the River Cary. Preventive measures were taken and works constructed to obviate any recurrence.

RIVER LAND YEO.—Clevedon. In May a discharge of oil into the river at Clevedon was reported. The discharge was caused by a firm storing swarf near the river and oil had seeped through the banks into the watercourse. The firm agreed to move the swarf and no further trouble was experienced.

Wraxall. A complaint was indirectly received from the owners of land abutting the river at Wraxall. The source of the pollution was a cider works. The waste together with a certain amount of domestic waste received land treatment of a kind before discharging into the River Land Yeo. The Company agreed to submit plans and proposals for improving the control and treatment of their waste and carry out any works to prevent serious pollution.

RIVER PARRETT. At the end of July a number of dead fish were reported in the river below the inlet from Hurst Brook. This brook receives the effluent from the Martock Sewage Works which discharges into the Parrett at Gawbridge. Inquiries revealed that no unusual operation had taken place at the Works. The fish had died after a sudden and brief pollution but no evidence could be found to support this view.

RIVER PARRETT. Farmers have complained that their cattle refuse to drink from the Lopen Brook at certain times when effluents are being discharged from the Flax Factory. Investigations have been made and the Company are making every effort to minimise any possible danger from their flax-retting liquor.

RIVER TONE.—Taunton. Repairs have been effected to the pipe carrying tar at the Taunton Gas Works and no further trouble from this source is anticipated. Negotiations are proceeding to install a concentrated liquor plant to enable gas works liquors to be discharged into the Borough sewers.

Wellington. Negotiations are proceeding respecting the discharge of trade waste from a Mill into the Urban Council's sewers.

RIVER YEO. Early in August a report was received from the Ilchester Parish Council which stated that a large number of dead fish had been observed in the river at Ilchester. It was mentioned that the pollution had occurred two weeks previously and that the probable cause was the effluent from the Yeovil gloving factories. It was pointed out that the effluents from these factories discharged into the Borough sewers. The most likely causes of the loss of fish life was that (a) the hot weather at the time had absorbed considerable oxygen from the river and (b) the polluting effect of the effluent from the Borough Sewage Works.

HOUSING.

The position with regard to housing is still acute. During the year Local Authorities erected 1,978 houses, a slight increase over the previous year, whilst those built by private enterprise numbered 182, a little more than half those erected in 1947. The conversion of large buildings into flats and temporary tenements provided 466 separate homes, making a grand total of 2,626—a decrease of 330 on the previous year.

Houses in course of erection by Local Authorities and private enterprise number 1,859.

Applicants for houses in the County total nearly 27,000, being several thousand above the number on the waiting lists of Local Authorities last year.

Overcrowding is still a matter of great concern and condemned and unfit houses remain occupied, many under licence. The health of the occupants is bound to suffer, but with the present rate of house construction there is little possibility of improvement for some time to come.

New houses erected and in course of erection, both temporary and permanent, are shewn in Table XII, also the number of conversions that have been carried out. Houses required to replace those in an unsatisfactory condition are included in the summary, together with the number of applicants for new houses.

Rural Housing Survey.

Table XIII shows the progress made towards the completion of the Survey in the County to the 31st December, 1948, also the categories into which the houses surveyed have fallen.

Comparing the totals at the foot of column (6) with those of column (4) it will be observed that 60% of the inspections have been completed. The Somerset Rural Housing Committee recommended that the whole of the Survey should be completed by 30th September, 1946, but at the present rate of progress this will not be so until 1952.

During 1948, 4,796 houses were surveyed, an increase over 1947 of 1,220, and of the 16 Authorities concerned, 10 have inspected 50% to 100% of the houses coming within the Survey, 4 from 40% to 50%, and Clutton and Chard 39.2% and 11.1% respectively. In some districts, however, each house is inspected in detail whilst in other areas the inspections are of a superficial nature only and merely determine the categories into which the properties fall and this prevents true comparison of the relative progress of the different Authorities.

Of the 26,903 houses inspected to date, 4,319 or 16% have been found fit in all respects and 6,946 or just over a quarter, have been found unfit according to present standards legally enforceable. If the properties requiring extensive repair or structural alteration (10,026) are added to those unfit a total of 16,972 or 63% is reached indicating the serious position respecting the poor condition of the existing houses in rural areas.

Many owner occupiers of cottages cannot meet the high present day costs of repairs and re-conditioning without financial assistance and, coupled with the shortage of labour and materials available for repairs, this can only lead to the cottages being lost and aggravating the already highly unsatisfactory housing position.

TABLE XII.

Local Authority.	I		II		III		IV			V
	Houses erected by		Houses in course of erection by		Conversion to Flats, etc.		Houses required		For other unsat. conditions.	
	L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	P.E.	To replace Unfit.	To abate over-crowding		
URBAN AREAS.										
Bridgwater ...	182	6	145	—	4	—	320	50	—	1,403
Burnham-on-Sea	—	8	—	10	—	—	Sites for 230 required			455
Chard ...	93	2	18	3	—	5	58	21	33	268
Clevedon ...	76	12	30	—	—	11	20	10	190	230
Crewkerne ...	45	4	25	2	—	—	12	—	—	130
Frome ...	4	9	24	3	6	10	500	30	150	307
Glastonbury ...	45	4	21	1	—	2	60	7	70	218
Ilminster ...	28	—	6	—	—	—	50	10	20	247
Keynsham ...	87	8	55	9	—	16	244	67	197	750
Minehead ...	26	2	26	1	—	5	—	—	—	307
Norton Radstock	24	13	38	—	—	—	54	60	240	632
Portishead ...	—	—	18	2	—	—	30	45	129	204
Shepton Mallet	10	3	30	1	5	—	—	—	—	300
Street ...	18	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	50	250
Taunton ...	114	2	134	4	—	7	180	—	—	2,508
Watchet ...	20	—	12	—	—	—	30	—	—	60
Wellington ...	44	—	24	—	—	5	200	18	197	346
Wells ...	36	2	—	2	—	4	150	—	109	265
Weston-s.-Mare	212	6	186	3	3	8	200	75	—	3,413
Yeovil ...	21	4	—	6	3	30	57	30	864	1,377
Totals ...	1,085	85	814	47	21	103	—	—	—	—
RURAL AREAS.										
Axbridge ...	138	1T 8	119	2	—	19	186	15	811	1,012
Bathavon ...	102	13	153	19	22	7	203	53	130	1,101
Bridgwater ...	64	6	66	7	12	—	745	8	—	602
Chard ...	30	3	46	8	46	7	360			365
Clutton ...	40T 44	2	54	15	—	—	374			1,355
Dulverton ...	32	4	20	1	—	—	20	10	—	108
Frome ...	62	3	—	7	—	—	806	108	—	232
Langport ...	50	3T —	34	1T 5	—	9	314	13	160	364
Long Ashton ...	104	12	58	19	73	24	306	49	75	630
Shepton Mallet	28	2T 5	32	5	—	8	270	6	82	267
Taunton ...	28	—	82	2	47	26	350	—	250	534
Wellington ...	36	5	12	8	—	—	317	6	84	163
Wells ...	31	6	56	7	—	—	200	16	65	345
Williton ...	24	6	20	3	—	2	586	12	140	320
Wincanton ...	46	5	65	9	21	8	673	10	264	533
Yeovil ...	34	5T 8	50	2T 11	—	11	351	50	638	810
Totals ...	40T 853	11T 86	867	3T 128	221	121	—	—	—	—
Combined Totals ...	40T 1,938	11T 171	1,681	3T 175	242	224	—	—	—	—

"T" means Temporary. The remaining houses are of Permanent construction.

NOTE.—The figures given for Rural Areas under Col. IV take into consideration houses visited under Public Health Acts as well as those inspected under the Housing Act, 1936. Some of the figures (Urban and Rural) have possibly been estimated by the district authority.

TABLE XIII.

PROGRESSIVE HOUSING STATEMENT showing the progress of the RURAL HOUSING SURVEY to 31st December, 1948.

CATEGORIES:—

I. Satisfactory in all respects.

II. Minor defects.

III. Repairs or structural alterations.

IV. Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

IVA. Suitable for acquisition.

V. Unfit.

Local Authority	Number of Houses in District.				Inspected.			C A T E G O R I E S .																					
	Over £16 R. V. excluding Council houses.				No. of Private houses built since 1930.			£16 R. V. or under excluding Cl. houses, also those built Privately since 1930.			% £16 R. V. or under of total houses in District.			Number.		% on Col. (4).		I.		II.		III.		IV.		IVA.		V.	
																		Standards.		Number.		Number.		Number.		Number.		Number.	
	District.	County.	Number.	% on Col. (6).	Number.	% on Col. (6).	Number.	% on Col. (6).	Number.	% on Col. (6).	Number.	% on Col. (6).	Number.	% on Col. (6).	Number.	% on Col. (6).	Number.	% on Col. (6).											
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)								
Axbridge	1275	578	920	4055	59.3	1959	48.3	181	9.2	84	4.3	331	16.9	1258	64.2	112	5.7	—	—	189	9.7								
Bathavon	1683	186	950	3274	53.7	1743	53.2	68	3.9	11	0.6	309	17.7	1219	69.9	—	—	8	0.4	147	8.4								
Bridgwater	855	437	657	4359	69.1	2636	60.5	26	1.0	20	0.8	321	12.2	1544	58.6	229	8.7	—	—	745	28.2								
Chard	285	254	157	2721	79.6	303	11.1	17	5.6	10	3.3	50	16.5	138	45.5	—	—	—	—	98	32.3								
Clutton	434	614	407	3378	69.8	1325	39.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	22.3	27	2.3	—	—	1029	77.7								
Dulverton	204	92	86	1251	76.6	931	74.4	378	40.6	—	—	250	26.9	278	29.8	5	0.5	—	—	25	2.7								
Frome	333	182	—	2509	82.9	2419	96.4	327	13.5	149	6.2	536	22.1	749	30.9	362	14.9	—	—	807	33.3								
Langport*	452	407	190	2701	72.0	1098	40.7	11	1.0	7	0.6	47	4.3	378	34.4	317	28.9	—	—	662	60.2								
Long Ashton	2458	357	563	2776	45.1	2323	83.7	629	27.0	82	3.5	386	16.7	998	43.0	65	2.8	509	21.9	310	13.3								
Shepton Mallet..	480	210	207	2171	70.8	1017	46.8	85	8.4	5	0.5	136	13.4	528	51.9	86	8.5	1	0.1	268	26.3								
Taunton	557	426	265	3643	74.5	2846	78.1	358	12.6	128	4.5	1772	62.3	366	12.8	—	—	23	0.8	350	12.3								
Wellington	313	246	—	1584	73.9	755	47.7	84	11.1	—	—	52	6.9	302	40.0	304	40.3	—	—	317	42.0								
Wells	459	111	207	1725	68.9	1725	100.0	564	32.7	59	3.4	206	11.9	534	30.9	231	13.4	107	6.2	421	24.4								
Williton	768	309	397	2492	62.8	1647	66.1	477	28.9	297	18.0	372	22.6	464	28.2	52	3.2	—	—	334	20.3								
Wincanton	1449	856	216	2409	48.8	1214	50.4	38	3.1	—	—	155	12.8	128	10.5	237	19.5	25	2.0	893	73.6								
Yeovil	698	931	618	3455	60.6	2962	85.7	1076	36.3	685	23.1	689	23.3	846	28.6	155	5.2	—	—	351	11.8								
Totals	12703	6196	5840	44503	64.3	26903	60.4	4319	16.1	1537	5.7	5612	20.9	10026	37.3	2182	8.1	673	2.5	6946	25.8								

* Langport Survey covers houses of £14 R. V. and under only.

SUPERVISION OVER THE FOOD SUPPLY.

A. Slaughter Houses and Meat Supervision.

The Ministry of Food still control those slaughter houses and abattoirs in the County where cattle, sheep and pigs are slaughtered for human consumption under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

These are situated in the following areas:—Chard, Crewkerne, Frome, Minehead, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil. Inspection of the meat is carried out by the district Sanitary Inspectors.

Horse flesh is now being consumed in greater quantities by the public and there are three licensed slaughter houses situated in the Bridgwater, Langport and Taunton areas where horse slaughtering takes place.

There are twelve Knackers' Yards in the County situated in the districts of Burnham Urban and Bathavon, Frome, Langport, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Wells, Wincanton and Yeovil rural districts.

B. Tuberculosis in Calves.

Where calves born inside the County but slaughtered outside are found to be suffering from tuberculosis an arrangement is in being whereby the County Sanitary Inspector is notified. As a result of this, the information is passed on to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with a view to investigations being carried out.

The following is a summary of action taken during the year:—

Notifications received	...	...	...	...	51	
Calves involved	...	...	...	...		51
Bulls	„	...	...	...	...	—
Results of Investigations:—						
Number of mothers found healthy	...	...	...	...		3
„ died	...	...	...	...		1
Number of Cows slaughtered:—						
(a) Showing advanced tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	7	
(b) „ non-advanced „	...	...	...	...	31	
					—	38
Number unable to trace	...	...	...	...		9
						—
						51
						==

TABLE XIV.

C. Milk Supply.

The table below gives particulars of the number of Registered Producers and Retailers, also the Pasteurising and Heat Treatment plants in the respective districts:—

Local Authority.	I	II		III	IV	V	VI	VII
	Total Registered Dairy Farms.	Designated Farms.		Retailers.	Producer Retailers included in Col. III	Licensed Pasteurising Plants.	Authorised Heat Treatment Plants not included in Col. V.	Heat Treatment Plants authorised by Ministry of Food.
		T.T.	Acc.					
Urban Areas.								
Bridgwater ...	15	2	—	40	7	1	—	—
Burnham ...	21	2	2	17	6	—	1	1
Chard ...	8	1	1	4	—	—	—	—
Clevedon ...	28	1	2	16	6	—	1	—
Crewkerne ...	10	—	2	4	1	—	—	—
Frome ...	13	6	2	9	4	1	1	—
Glastonbury ...	47	3	6	8	4	—	—	—
Ilminster ...	7	1	2	3	1	1	—	—
Keynsham ...	23	5	—	5	2	1	—	1
Minehead ...	4	—	1	6	2	1	—	1
Norton Radstock	38	4	5	18	16	—	2	—
Portishead ...	7	—	2	6	3	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet..	22	4	6	6	1	—	1	1
Street ...	19	2	1	11	8	1	—	—
Taunton ...	5	1	1	23	1	3	—	—
Watchet ...	4	1	—	6	2	—	—	—
Wellington ...	16	6	1	9	14	1	—	1
Wells ...	7	1	2	6	1	1	—	1
Weston-s.-Mare.	26	—	3	59	10	—	—	—
Yeovil ...	13	3	3	21	9	2	—	—
Totals ...	333	43	42	277	98	13	6	6
Rural Areas.								
Axbridge ...	930	92	88	92	79	1	—	—
Bathavon ...	266	40	37	78	56	1	—	—
Bridgwater ...	845	53	24	120	101	—	1	—
Chard ...	547	62	26	60	58	—	1	—
Clutton ...	47	87	47	93	87	1	—	—
Dulverton ...	200	8	2	170	170	—	—	—
Frome ...	397	70	56	67	63	—	—	—
Langport ...	482	31	25	2	127	1	—	—
Long Ashton ...	355	55	23	112	87	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet..	433	95	87	55	48	—	—	1
Taunton ...	406	59	19	45	40	—	—	—
Wellington ...	243	37	4	3	87	—	—	—
Wells ...	470	75	72	118	107	—	—	—
Williton ...	349	33	7	134	132	—	—	—
Wincanton ...	591	129	84	58	51	1	2	2
Yeovil ...	439	69	38	138	125	—	—	—
Totals ...	7,000	995	639	1,345	1,418	5	4	3
Combined Totals ...	7,333	1,038	681	1,622	1,516	18	10	9

Designated Milk (raw).

From the figures appended it will be observed that the steady increase of designated producers continues. There is a gain of 101 over 1947. An excellent feature is the large increase of licensees producing "Tuberculin Tested" milk, viz., 137 during the year:—

Year (at end of).	T.T.	Accredited.	Total.
1936	126	285	411
1937	159	506	665
1938	264	623	887
1939	320	800	1,120
1940	305	849	1,154
1941	275	817	1,092
1942	297	871	1,168
1943	357	840	1,197
1944	502	705	1,207
1945	596	758	1,354
1946	739	757	1,496
1947	901	717	1,618
1948	1,038	681	1,719

Transfers:—

From "Accredited" to "T.T."	...	...	...	70
From "T.T." to "Accredited"	...	...	...	9

Number of licences cancelled or relinquished:—

"Tuberculin Tested" ...	...	...	...	34
(9 of these reverted to "Accredited")				
"Accredited" ...	...	...	...	85
(70 of these transferred to "T.T.")				

Licences suspended:—

"Tuberculin Tested"	8
"Accredited"	15

Licences revoked	1
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Licences reinstated:—

"Tuberculin Tested"	4
"Accredited"	4

Mainly due to the abnormally hot weather experienced in July, the percentage of samples which proved unsatisfactory increased. Many requests for advisory visits were received. These, however, mainly come from the conscientious milk producers whose sampling records can be classified as very good. Such licensees are naturally perturbed when their milk fails to satisfy the official tests. These applications for advice are welcomed as they indicate a will to produce clean, wholesome milk. Other requests are made usually when there is a danger of drastic action being taken respecting the suspension of a licence. It is far better to ask for help when the initial sample fails and have any faults corrected than wait until danger threatens.

“Why does my milk fail”, is a common question. Generally it is due to insufficient attention being paid to the thorough cleansing of utensils and apparatus. Efficient sterilisation of milking pails and plant immediately after milking is the best insurance against milk of poor keeping quality.

As Somerset produces about 6% of the country's total milk supply, it is most essential, particularly in these times, that producers and those to whom the milk is consigned should work in the closest co-operation and take all steps necessary to see that milk is not wasted through avoidable causes.

Samples taken during the year and the test results are as follows:—

BULK SAMPLES:

T.T.	...	5,474	Satisfactory ..	4,282	% Unsatisfactory	21.8
Accredited	...	4,005	do. ...	2,885	do. ...	27.9
		<hr/>		<hr/>		
Totals		9,479		7,167	do. ...	24.4
		<hr/>		<hr/>		
FARM BOTTLED:		724	do. ...	602	do. ...	16.8

The above figures include pre-licence, extra sampling and reinstatement samples. The rather high percentage of the samples found unsatisfactory were in the main due to the July results. In the hottest week of this month, out of 214 samples taken 150 or 70.1% failed to satisfy the test.

Routine inspections of designated producers' premises have been maintained and a considerable number of advisory visits have been paid. With a view to assisting in tracing the cause of samples failing, numerous check rinses of milking machines and apparatus were taken.

Pasteurised and Heat Treated Milk.

At the request of the Ministry of Food the Sampling Officers continued to take samples fortnightly at depots authorised by the Ministry to heat treat milk.

By arrangement with district authorities, samples of Pasteurised milk are also taken at similar intervals.

The samples taken and results are as follows:—

Samples taken.	Satisfactory.	% Unsatisfactory.
671	623	7.2
Failed Phosphatase test only	...	2.5
„ Phosphatase test and Methylene Blue	...	0.7
„ Methylene Blue test only	...	3.9

Where samples fail, in co-operation with the Ministry of Food and officials of district authorities, advisory visits are paid to the depots concerned.

Biological Sampling.

Routine bulk sampling from “Accredited” and undesignated herds is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and the samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for test. When positive results are obtained these are communicated immediately to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:—

Milk Examined for Tubercle Bacilli for 1948.

	Number examined.	Number containing tubercle bacilli.	Percentage containing T.B.
Ungraded	424	15	3.5
Accredited	69	2	2.9
Tuberculin Tested	68	1	1.5
Heat Treated	11	—	—

Churns, Milk Bottles and Containers.

The tables below summarise the results of the check tests made on churns and milk containers:—

MILK CHURNS.

	No. of Samples taken.	Satisfactory.	% Unsatisfactory.
Machine washed	310	263	15.1
Hand washed	128	120	6.2
Total	438	383	12.5

There has been a very definite improvement in the cleanliness of churns during the past year, and particularly at the depots where the washing is done by hand.

EMPTY CLEANSED BOTTLES.

The appended table shows the results of bottles submitted to a sterility test:—

	B O T T L E S								
	Machine washed.			Hand washed and sterilised.			Hand washed and not sterilised.		
	No. of Samples taken.	Satis- factory.	% Unsatis- factory.	No. of Samples taken.	Satis- factory.	% Unsatis- factory.	No. of Samples taken.	Satis- factory.	% Unsatis- factory.
From premises licensed for bottling $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 pint.	117	98	16.2	659	536	18.7	25	14	44.0
From school suppliers $\frac{1}{3}$ pint.	135	107	20.7	307	263	14.3	39	32	17.9
Total	252	205	18.6	966	799	17.3	64	46	28.1

These results show a distinct improvement on the previous year and the time spent by the advisory staff in checking faults, particularly in washing methods, is amply justified.

School Milk.

Table A sets out the position at the end of December, 1948. It will be observed that every school received a supply of milk.

Table A.

Types of Schools (including Divisional Executive Areas).	Total number of each type.	Number of schools and types of milk consumed with percentages.									
		Past. and H.T.	%	T.T.	%	Acc.	%	U.D.	%	NDM.	%
Primary ...	419	295	70.4	105	25.1	2	0.5	17	4.0	—	—
Secondary Modern ...	32	28	87.5	4	12.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Grammar ...	18	14	77.8	4	22.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Technical ...	2	2	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursery ...	10	6	60.0	4	40.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	481	345	71.7	117	24.3	2	0.4	17	3.5	—	—

Table B shows the number of children attending the various types of schools, the class of milk consumed by each type and the percentages.

Table B.

Types of Schools (including Divisional Executive Areas).	Number of Scholars.	No. of children :—									
		Past. and H.T.	%	T.T.	%	Acc.	%	U.D.	%	NDM.	%
Primary ...	38,097	30,355	79.7	7,241	19.0	42	0.1	459	1.2	—	—
Secondary Modern ...	9,085	7,941	87.4	1,144	12.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Grammar ...	5,299	4,185	78.9	1,114	21.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Technical ...	302	302	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursery ...	393	241	61.3	152	38.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	53,176	43,024	80.9	9,651	18.1	42	0.1	459	0.8	—	—

Table C gives the various kinds of milk supplied, the percentage of each kind consumed and comparative information respecting the year 1934 with those of 1945 to 1948.

Table C.

	1934	1945	1946	1947	1948
Past./H.T. ...	35%	53.6%	71.3%	77.4%	80.9%
T.T. ...	5%	20.0%	22.3%	20.0%	18.1%
Accredited ...	—	17.0%	2.0%	1.1%	0.1%
Undesignated (Boiled) ...	24%	9.0%	4.3%	1.4%	0.8%
National Dried Milk ...	—	—	0.02%	0.004%	—
No Milk ...	35%	0.4%	0.08%	—	—

Progress has been maintained in improving the supply of safe milk to schools as Table C shows. Only 0.9 per cent. or 501 children out of a total of 53,176 are receiving milk of a type other than Pasteurised, Heat Treated or Tuberculin Tested. Every endeavour is made to provide all scholars with the grades mentioned.

Head teachers at schools receiving a supply of Accredited or Undesignated milk are warned that this milk must be boiled before it is given to the children.

My department is involved in a considerable amount of work in connection with the Milk in Schools Scheme. Apart from dealing with the voluntary resignation of Dairymen and finding new and reliable substitutes who will supply a safe milk, the milk of all suppliers is sampled frequently and advisory visits made to dairies when samples do not reach the desired standard. Samples are also taken of the supplies to school kitchens.

ICE CREAM **(Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.**

The provisional Grades into which the samples are placed are those suggested by the Ministry of Health. It is thought that if, out of the four grades recommended ice cream consistently fails to reach Grades I and II, it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or of handling which call for further investigation.

Much research work in connection with the testing and grading of ice cream is being carried on and it is gratifying to note that the percentage of samples falling into Provisional Grades I and II has increased from 46% to 64% during the year. The results are set out in Table XV.

TABLE XV.

District.	No. of premises registered for:		No. of Vendors Sampled.	HOT MIX				Total.	COLD MIX				Total.
	Manufacture and/or Sale	Sale		Number of Samples falling into Provisional Grades.					Number of Samples falling into Provisional Grades.				
				I	II	III	IV		I	II	III	IV	
URBAN AREAS													
Bridgwater ...	13	35	14	9	16	8	13	46	1	1	3	—	5
Burnham ...	4	22	13	20	12	23	20	75	7	1	3	4	15
Chard ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clevedon ...	6	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crewkerne ...	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frome ...	5	7	4	2	—	1	—	3	4	1	—	2	7
Glastonbury ...	3	8	7	15	7	5	14	41	—	—	—	—	—
Ilminster ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keynsham ...	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Minchhead ...	7	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norton Radstock.	8	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portishead ...	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Street ...	2	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taunton ...	8	30	17	37	24	10	13	84	4	6	3	—	13
Watchet ...	3	10	10	10	14	5	6	35	—	2	—	3	5
Wellington ...	5	9	5	4	4	1	3	12	7	1	1	—	9
Wells ...	6	13	13	6	7	2	5	20	3	1	1	—	5
Weston-s.-Mare ..	18	88	29	69	38	31	27	165	8	2	—	—	10
Yeovil ...	8	41	22	25	17	11	8	61	6	1	3	1	11
TOTAL ...	104	358	134	197	139	97	109	542	40	16	14	10	80
RURAL AREAS													
Axbridge ...	5	45	27	42	20	14	18	94	9	—	—	—	9
Bathavon ...	2	6	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	2
Bridgwater ...	5	6	6	3	5	4	2	14	2	1	1	1	5
Chard ...	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clutton ...	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dulverton ...	3	1	3	—	1	—	1	2	—	2	2	—	4
Frome ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Langport ...	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Ashton ...	6	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taunton ...	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellington ...	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
Wells ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Williton ...	7	15	10	7	8	5	2	22	3	1	—	—	4
Wincanton ...	3	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yeovil ...	1	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	36	164	49	55	34	23	23	135	15	5	5	1	26
Combined Totals ...	140	522	183	252	173	120	132	677	55	21	19	11	106

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY PUBLIC ANALYST.

In April, the laboratory undertook new work as the appointment of Official Agricultural Analyst came to Somerset, after being in London for many years. This change should be a help to the farmers.

The laboratory was also called upon to analyse samples of petrol taken by the Police in Somerset and Dorset.

In addition to the work involved by these new duties the number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act and other Orders increased from 1,666 in 1947 to 2,063 in 1948, the miscellaneous samples from 35 to 109 and the number of sewages, effluents, drinking waters, etc., from 178 to 243, and indeed the pressure of work has been very great during the latter months of the year.

Total number of Samples received.

The following is a summary of the samples examined during the year:—

Samples submitted under the Food and Drugs Act and other Orders:—

By Inspectors—

Number taken formally ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,408
Number taken informally	586
Appeal to Cow samples	55

From private and other sources	14
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							<hr/>	2,063
Samples submitted under the Merchandise Marks Act	5

Samples submitted under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act:—

Fertilisers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Feeding stuffs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Drinking water samples for chemical analysis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Sewages, effluents and river water samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Petrol samples	25
Miscellaneous samples	109

Total number of samples	<hr/>	2,466
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Food and Drugs Act, 1938, etc.

The total number of samples received for analysis under the above Act and other Food Orders was 2,063 of which 117 or 5.7 per cent. were adulterated or incorrect, compared with 6.8 per cent. in the previous year. The following table sets out in more detail the number of samples examined and the number and percentage adulterated or incorrect.

	Number Examined.	Number Incorrect.	Percentage Incorrect.
Milk	1,062	80	7.5
Condensed and Evaporated Milks	8	—	—
Cheese	21	—	—
Butter	78	3	3.8
Margarine	43	—	—
Other Edible Fats	52	1	1.9
Cereals	54	2	3.7
Baking and Golden Raising Powders	7	—	—
Sausages	15	5	33.3
Other Meat and Fish Products	43	1	2.3
Beef Extract	7	1	14.3
Tea	20	—	—
Coffee	11	—	—
Coffee and Chicory	2	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Extract	11	—	—
Cocoa and Cocoa Compounds	11	—	—
Malt Beverages... ..	2	—	—
Gelatine	12	—	—
Canned Meat and Vegetables	13	—	—
Canned Fruit	6	—	—
Canned and Powdered Soups	13	—	—
Jam, Marmalade, Honey, etc.	31	—	—
Vinegars	31	2	6.5
Pickles and Sauces	34	2	5.9
Salad Oil, Dressing and Cream	5	2	40.0
Condiments	27	—	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	135	8	5.9
Soft Drinks	28	—	—
Fruit Juice	7	—	—
Sweetened Mineral Water	1	—	—
Ice Cream	39	—	—
Other Intoxicating Liquors	3	—	—
Beer, Cider and Spirits	60	1	1.7
Non-alcoholic Wine	1	—	—
Drugs	170	9	5.3
	2,063	117	5.7

Adulterated Milk Samples.

The number of milk samples returned as adulterated was 80 and information as to the nature of the adulteration and details regarding each individual sample is given in the following summary and table:—

Number containing added water	27
Number deficient of fat	50
Number containing added water and deficient in fat	3
Number containing preservatives	Nil.

The percentage of adulterated milks (7.5 per cent.) is less than that for the previous year (10.4 per cent.) but it is still high.

A much larger number of milks were submitted this year, 1,062 against 689 in 1947, and again these included a large number taken as a result of complaints received from milk factories.

No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.	No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
45	4% Water ...	Resample at a future date.	879	3.2% Water ...	Cautioned.
50	10% Fat ...	One sample on delivery No. 74 exonerated vendor. Resample at a future date.	886	26% Fat ...	Resample at a future date.
51	19% Fat ...		925	39% Fat ...	Severe caution.
74	10% Fat ...	Cautioned.	932	12.7% Fat ...	Cautioned.
84	5% Water ...	Resample at a future date.	936	10% Fat ...	Cautioned.
134	8.5% Water ...	Fined £10, Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.	958	13.3% Fat ...	Cautioned. Resample at a future date.
135	4.5% Solids-not-fat deficiency ...		974	10% Fat ...	Cautioned.
211	17.5% Water ...	Fined £3, Costs £5 5s. 0d.	1023	12.7% Fat ...	Cautioned.
251	17.5% Fat ...	Resample at a future date.	1078	10% Fat ...	Cautioned. See sample on delivery No. 1081.
259	4.5% Water ...	Cautioned and resample at a future date.	1079	11.7% Fat ...	
	9.0% Fat ...		1081	4.3% Fat ...	Exonerated by "Appeal to cow sample". Resample at a future date.
	4.5% over that due to Water ...		1161	10% Fat ...	Cautioned.
260	3% Water ...	Resample at a future date.	1163	11.7% Fat ...	Resample at a future date.
330	20.3% Fat ...	Cautioned.	1164	11.7% Fat ...	
338	40.0% Fat ...	Fined £5.	1202	2.7% Water ...	Dismissed under Probation of Offenders Act. Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d. Witness 10/-. Court fee 4/-.
419	31.0% Fat ...	Fined £2, Costs £3 3s. 0d.	1203	2.5% Water ...	
524	5.9% Water ...	Fined £2, Advocate's fee £1 1s. 0d. Witness 15/-.	1247	7.3% Water ...	Resample at a future date.
527	20.2% Water ...		1361	13% Fat ...	Cautioned.
525	9.0% Fat ...	Dismissed.	1403	13.7% Fat ...	Resample at a future date.
526	11.0% Fat ...		1404	6.7% Water ...	Fined £2, Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.
593	9.0% Fat ...		1405	10.3% Water ...	
594	9.0% Fat ...		1489	3.6% Water ...	Resample at a future date.
596	13.3% Fat ...		1647	4.5% Water ...	Fined £10, Advocate's fee £5 5s. 0d. Witness 10/-.
597	6.7% Fat ...	Five other samples from the same producer were genuine. Resample at a future date.	1648	15.2% Water ...	
632	7.4% Solids-not-fat deficiency ...	Cautioned.	1649	16.1% Water ...	
	3.4% Water by the freezing point test ...		1650	16.2% Water ...	Dismissed.
683	16.3% Fat ...	See samples on delivery 698 to 700.	1666	14.0% Fat ...	
689	26.7% Fat ...	Resample at a future date.	1743	50.0% Fat ...	Fined £10, Advocate's fee £5 5s. 0d.
698	15.7% Fat ...	Cautioned.	1747	24.6% Water ...	See No. 1751.
699	21.0% Fat ...		1751	24.5% Water ...	Dismissed. Appeal pending.
700	14.3% Fat ...		1891	4% Water and 15.7% Fat ...	Resample at a future date.
733	20% Fat ...	Resample at a future date.	1892	5.8% Water ...	Cautioned.
740	5% Fat ...		1977	9.3% Fat ...	
742	7.7% Fat ...		1982	37.9% Water ...	Dismissed.
743	10.7% Fat ...		1933	22.3% Water ...	Fined £5, Advocate's fee £5 5s. 0d., Witness 10/-.
744	10% Fat ...		2132	18.3% Fat ...	Cautioned.
745	5% Fat ...	Cautioned. See samples on delivery Nos. 805, 806 and 810.	2137	1.4% Water ...	Fined £5, Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.
792	19.3% Fat ...		2138	8.0% Water ...	
794	14.7% Fat ...	Cautioned.	2179	8.7% Water ...	Fined £3, Advocate's fee £4 4s. 0d.
805	7.3% Fat ...	Cautioned.	588	9.7% Fat ...	Further sample genuine.
806	26.7% Fat ...		(Private)		
810	4.0% Fat ...		677	11.7% Fat ...	Reported to Inspector of Weights & Measures.

Nos. 50, 51 and 74. Samples Nos. 50 and 51 were of bottled milk taken from the same retailer. He obtained his supply from three sources and four in course of delivery samples were taken from these sources. One of these samples was found to contain only 2.7 per cent. of fat. The producer of this sample has two herds, one of Guernsey cows and the other of Shorthorns, the milking was done by machinery and the milk of the two herds was kept separate but there was a possibility that the strippings of the Shorthorn cows were mixed with the milk from the Guernsey cows. Further samples taken from this producer were genuine. He was advised to exercise a stricter supervision over the milking.

Nos. 134 and 135. A previous summons against this producer for selling milk containing added water was dismissed owing to the fact that a copy of the certificate was not served with the summons.

In the case of sample No. 134 the freezing point, minus 0.486° C., showed that there was at least 8.5 per cent. of added water present, but the freezing point minus 0.523° C. of sample No. 135, although rather high for a genuine milk, was not quite definite enough to justify an opinion as to whether the low solids-not-fat was due to natural causes or added water. However, the appeal to cow sample had a freezing point of minus 0.55° C. and by comparison with this sample the original samples were shown to contain 10.3 and 4.4 per cent. of added water respectively. In the case of the latter sample the amount of added water shown to be present proved that the deficiency of solids-not-fat was due to the presence of extraneous water and not to natural causes.

The vendor pleaded guilty, the case for the prosecution was proven and a fine was imposed.

No. 211. This sample was from bottled milk. The defendant pleaded guilty as he suffered from attacks of dizziness and vomiting and one of these attacks was responsible for the fact that he forgot that he had not emptied out the water from the cooling tank, before pouring in the milk from the next milking.

The Bench decided that an offence had been committed but that there was no question of deliberate addition of water.

No. 259. Three samples were taken in course of delivery, all of which proved genuine. The retailer had given prior information to the producer with regard to the taking of samples, which made the results of the samples taken in course of delivery of little value as evidence to establish which of the two, the retailer or producer, was most likely to have been responsible for the adulteration of the original sample.

No. 338. Two samples were purchased from the same vendor. This sample was adulterated but the other was genuine. They were not originally from the same source, and samples in course of delivery were taken, three from one, and one from another source. All these were genuine with good fat content. By comparison with these samples the above sample was shown to be from 47 to 51 per cent. deficient of fat.

The defendant pleaded guilty to a technical offence and said that the deficiency was due to the failure to stir the milk in a churn that had been standing for over an hour.

No. 419. This sample of milk was taken from a pint bottle and contained only 2.07 per cent. of fat whereas an appeal to cow sample from 5 cows contained 4.57 per cent. of fat, which represented a deficiency of 54.7 per cent.

The defendant said that by mistake each cow's milk had been bottled separately and that one of the cows must have been giving milk low in fat.

His statement was accepted and it was pointed out to him that he was not being convicted of deliberately extracting fat, but that he had committed an offence against the Act by selling milk so deficient.

Nos. 525 and 526. The explanation put forward by the defendant for the deficiencies of fat in these two samples was that the cows had been milked by strangers for a week while he was on holiday and that they had not quite recovered from the effects until after the original samples had been taken. Two appeal to cow samples taken on the two following days contained 3.04 and 3.44 per cent. of fat respectively.

No. 632. Four appeal to cow samples were taken, one morning and one evening, before and after passing over the cooler. All these samples were of poor quality being low in solids-not-fat and the morning appeal was also low in fat content. The original sample was taken because of a complaint from a factory that the milk contained added water. The amount had varied considerably from time to time.

No prosecution was undertaken in this case as the amount of water was small and the solids-not-fat were low in the appeal samples.

Nos. 683, 698, 699 and 700. Four samples, in course of delivery, were taken with reference to the original sample No. 683. Three of these samples, Nos. 698, 699 and 700, were deficient of fat and exonerated the vendor of the original sample. Four appeal to cow samples were taken, and all of these were deficient of fat.

The producer was exonerated as far as adulteration was concerned. The herd consisted of 23 cows of pure and cross Friesian breed. He was cautioned for selling milk of such poor quality and he has agreed to introduce some Jersey or Guernsey cows into the herd with a view to improving the quality of the milk.

No. 689. This producer has two herds producing 170 gallons a day. His explanation was that the milk in two churns which had been standing for some time had not been properly mixed before bottling.

It was decided to wait for an opportunity of sampling from the whole of the supply as it is delivered to the customers.

Nos. 738, 740, 742, 743, 744 and 745. A group of eleven samples of milk were taken from this producer as the churns were delivered to the factory, and the above six samples were deficient of fat. The weighted average fat content of all these samples was 2.87 per cent.

There were 50 cows in the herd and fourteen appeal to cow samples were taken, seven morning and seven of the evening milking. The fat contents of all the evening samples were above 3.45 per cent. but four of the morning samples were deficient of fat. The weighted average fat of the morning appeal samples was 3.02 per cent. which is rather low and only 5.0 per cent. higher than that of the original samples.

No. 925. The vendor bought the whole of the milk from one producer and a sample taken in course of delivery proved genuine, but between the taking of the original and latter samples, the vendor had informed the producer that an official sample had been taken. The in course of delivery sample was therefore of little value to show which man was the guilty party.

The sample was taken from a handcan which was filled from a tap at the bottom of a 21-gallon churn. No plunger was carried and no attempt was made to mix the milk.

The producer's herd consisted of 32 cows which were all milked by machine, but 12 had also to be handstripped. On the morning that the original sample was taken the strippings from these 12 cows amounted to one gallon and half of this was fed to the calves and the other half was mixed with the bulk of the milk. None of the strippings were fed to the calves on the morning that the in course of delivery sample was taken.

The deficiency of fat may have been due to two causes: (1) Half the strippings had been fed to the calves, and (2) the more serious cause, the milk in the 21-gallon churn had not been mixed.

Nos. 1163 and 1164. These samples were both from the same source; one from a handcan and the other from a bottle. An appeal to cow sample was taken from the milk of the whole herd, consisting of Friesians, Guernseys and Shorthorns, which contained 3.1 per cent. of fat. Three further appeal samples were taken the next day from three churns containing 10, 15 and 6½ gallons of milk respectively. The percentages of fat in these samples were 3.1, 3.0 and 3.3 per cent.

It was suggested to the farmer that the milk of the herd should be bulked before sale.

No. 1247. The extraneous water was due to a leaking cooler which the farmer undertook to have repaired.

Nos. 1647, 1648, 1649 and 1650. These samples were taken as a result of a complaint received from a milk factory, but no appeal to cow samples were taken as the producer refused permission to take them. The total amount of milk sampled was 33 gallons and the percentages of added water found represent 4.08 gallons of extraneous water in the whole of the four churns. The churns were left unattended overnight about 200 to 300 yards from the farmhouse.

No. 1666. The vendor obtained milk from two sources and samples in course of delivery proved to be genuine showing the deficiency of fat in the original sample by comparison with these samples to be from 42 to 57 per cent.

The Court held that the milk was as it came from the cow and the case was dismissed.

Nos. 1747 and 1751. These two samples were taken from the same supply at the same time but the summons was taken out only on No. 1751. The case was dismissed because of the non-compliance with Section 70 paragraph 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The bench found that the address on the label attached to the churn was a sufficient address and therefore one part of the sample should have been sent to the producer. The prosecution gave evidence that the inspector when he paid a visit to the farm the following day asked the farmer if he wished to have one part of the sample and he said that he did not wish to have it.

An appeal is pending.

No. 1982. A further sample taken at the same time from this vendor proved of good quality. Three appeal to cow samples were taken and the percentage of added water was shown by comparison to be 39 per cent.

The sample was taken from a liquid contained in a can on a lorry. The inspector was refused a sample at first but eventually was sold a pint for which he paid. At the hearing in Court the defence alleged that the liquid in the can was not for sale and consisted of "oddsies" being washings from the utensils, etc., together with milk from certain quarters of a particular cow. This liquid was carried round so that it would not be sold from the dairy during the absence of the vendor. He stated that the inspector was informed that this liquid was "oddsies" and that was the reason for the first refusal to sell.

In my opinion such a liquid should not be carried on a milk round. The case was dismissed.

No. 1983. This producer's milk was sampled because of a complaint received from a factory that, over a fairly long period, one churn in four had contained added water.

Four samples were taken and in this instance also added water was present in the milk of one of the churns. The total contents of the churn amounted to $7\frac{3}{4}$ gallons and the percentage of added water found (22.3 per cent.) is equivalent to 1.73 gallons or 13.8 pints of extraneous water in the milk contained in the churn.

No. 2179. The sample which was bottled milk was taken from a roundsman of a large dairy. The dairy manager immediately undertook investigations and found that the milk of one particular farmer contained added water. A plea of guilty was made as the dairy were unable to prove that this farmer's milk was responsible for the offence on the particular day the original sample was taken and therefore they could not rely on Section 83 of the Food and Drugs Act.

Nos. 2137 and 2138. These samples were taken from two churns containing 9 and 10 gallons of milk respectively. The actual amounts of extraneous water present in the whole of the milk contained in these churns was therefore at least 7.4 pints.

Average Composition of Milk Samples.

Year.	Total Solids. %	Fat. %	Solids-not-fat. %
1939	12.60	3.77	8.83
1945	12.45	3.67	8.78
1946	12.67	3.77	8.90
1947	12.56	3.74	8.82
1948	12.52	3.64	8.88

It will be noted that the composition of the milk produced in Somerset during these years has remained fairly constant in spite of the difficulty of obtaining feeding stuffs. I think that the great bulk of the milk produced in this County is of very good quality.

Other Adulterated or Incorrect Samples.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
68	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine (Informal) ...	28% deficient of ammonia ... 20% below lower limit ...	} Cautioned. (See official sample No. 236).
112	Chocolate Flavour Cake Mixture (Informal)	Incorrect label (Statement of ingredients incorrect).	
155	Choe-Malt Spread (Informal)...	Incorrect label (no statement of ingredients and no weight or volume).	Reported to Manufacturers. Very old stock.
192	Salad Oil (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (No appropriate designation of ingredients and no weight or measure stated).	Cautioned. Reported to packers for observations.
233	Fish Paste (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (No weight or measure stated).	Reported to manufacturers for observations.
236	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine ...	35% deficient of ammonia ... 27.8% below lower limit ...	} Cautioned.
276	Lard ...	At least 50% of hydrogenated oils	
321	Malt Vinegar (Informal) ...	Not Malt Vinegar ...	Nominal fine 10/-, Advocate's fee £5 5s. 0d. Reported to packers. (See official sample No. 412.)

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
324	Table Jelly Crystals (Informal)	Incorrect label. (Group B manufacturers therefore weight should not be less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.)	Reported to manufacturers.
326	Salad Oil (Informal)	Incorrect label. (No ingredients stated. No name and no address at which business is carried on).	Reported to manufacturers.
364	Meat Tenderiser (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (Constituents in wrong order and should be "Extract of papaya" and not "papaya").	Letter to manufacturers.
368	Beef Sausages	34% deficient of meat	Fine £3, Costs £3 3s. 0d.
412	Pure Malt Vinegar	Not Malt Vinegar	Cautioned.
461	Bun & Cake Flour (Informal)...	Incorrect label. (Statement of ingredients incorrect. No rice flour present.)	Letter to manufacturers.
578	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine (Informal) ...	66% deficient of ammonia ...	} Cautioned.
		62.2% below lower limit ...	
713	Beef Sausages	22% deficient of meat	Fined £3, Advocate's fee £1 1s. 0d.
771	Beef Sausages	36% deficient of meat	Fined £5, Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.
812	Glauber's Salt (Informal) ...	57% excess of $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ or	} Cautioned.
		53.9% excess of higher limit	
957	Beef Sausages	16% deficient of meat	Cautioned.
1060	Parrish's Chemical Food (Informal)	13.3% deficient of anhydrous ferrous phosphate and 8.2% below lower limit.	Cautioned.
1097	Cloves (Informal)	Deficient in volatile oil, and Starch present.	See No. 1188.
1184	Junket Rennet (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (No glycerine present).	Letter to manufacturers.
1188	Cloves	50% deficient of volatile oil. Starch present.	Cautioned. Remainder of stock destroyed.
1216	Tincture of Iodine (Informal)...	10.0% deficient of Iodine ...	} Cautioned.
		8.2% below lower limit ...	
1290	Butter	0.7% excess of water	Reported to Ministry of Food.
1338	Analgesic Tablets (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (No address of premises on which it was sold).	Cautioned. Attention drawn to the requirements of the Act.
1473	Whisky	4.9% added water	Fined £50, Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d. Costs 4/-.
1553	Junket Powder (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (All the ingredients were not stated on the label).	Letter to manufacturers drawing attention to the requirements of the Order.
1595	Butter	Contains 0.025% boric acid ...	Factory cautioned.
1600	Parsley (Informal)	Incorrect label. (No weight stated)	Vendor cautioned. Letter to manufacturers.
1646	Butter	Contains 0.025% boric acid ...	See No. 1595.
1916	Mixed Pickles (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (No statement of ingredients, no volume or weight, and no retail price.)	Letter to manufacturers.
1961	Pineapple Flavouring (Informal)	Incorrect label. Volume or weight not stated. No address.	Letter to manufacturers.
2090	Tomato Ketchup (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (No minimum contents and no retail price).	Packed for H.M. Forces. Surplus stock. Sale covered by Section 7 (c) of the Pickles and Sauces Order, 1947.
2140	Powdered Pectin (Informal) ...	Incorrect label. (No net weight stated).	Letter to manufacturers.
2154	Savoury Sausages	Sale illegal. Infringement of Order	Information sent to the Ministry of Food.
2194	Ground Almond Substitute ...	Deficient in oil and contains starch	Information sent to the Ministry of Food.

No. 112—Chocolate Flavour Cake Mixture (Informal). The label stated the ingredients to be:—"National Flour, Baking Powder, Soya Flour, Salt, Chocolate Essence, Egg Colouring Powder".

Analysis showed the sample to contain 10 per cent. of cocoa, 5 per cent. of baking powder and 0.2 per cent. of salt. No soya flour was present.

The certificate of analysis was sent to the manufacturers with a request for their observations. Their reply stated that the cause of the absence of soya flour was the fact that owing to Government action the importing of soya flour was completely stopped for a while and it was impossible to obtain supplies. During the period of shortage a substitute was used to enable the flavouring to be thoroughly mixed with the national flour. Their current mixtures have now reverted to the original ingredients.

This reply was a satisfactory explanation of the absence of soya but the order of the ingredients on the label was still incorrect, as "cocoa" should appear between flour and baking powder. This has been pointed out to the manufacturers.

No. 321—Pure Malt Vinegar (Informal) and No. 412—Pure Malt Vinegar (Formal). These samples were taken from the same vendor. The acetic acid content was satisfactory being 5.65 per cent., but the percentages of total solids, nitrogen, phosphate and ash were quite low. These results, together with those obtained for the ester, acid and alkaline oxidation and iodine values showed that the vinegar was not malt vinegar but was very probably spirit vinegar.

A letter was sent to the packers asking for their observations.

A reply from their Solicitors was received to the effect that their clients purchased malt vinegar under warranty. Many complaints had been received and two sets of proceedings were due to be heard shortly. The Solicitors were asked to arrange for stocks to be withdrawn or re-labelled and this they undertook to do.

No. 368—Beef Sausages. These sausages contained only 33 per cent. of meat whereas the standard is 50 per cent.

The vendor bought the sausages from a wholesaler and both appeared to answer the charge of manufacturing and selling beef sausages deficient in meat content. The Solicitor for the defence appeared for both defendants. The explanation presented was that the manufacturer had by mistake supplied savoury sausages for beef sausages. The vendor was, of course, unaware of this mistake and the case against him was dismissed.

Actually it is illegal to manufacture savoury sausages as they are not a specified food or excepted product as defined by the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Control & Maximum Prices) Order, 1947. This Authority has supplied information to the Ministry of Food regarding two cases where savoury sausages have been sold.

The defence sought to show that the savoury sausage was a much better article than the beef sausage because the former cost more—1/7d., while the latter cost only 1/1d. per lb. The truth is that beef sausages contain 50 per cent. of meat whereas savoury sausages generally contain much less meat and are therefore, in my opinion, an inferior article. The maximum price of beef sausages is controlled by the Order and this is the reason for the lower price.

The case against the manufacturer was proved and the fine as stated in the above table was imposed.

No. 812—Glauber's Salt (Informal). The sulphate (SO_3) content of this sample was 39 per cent. which is equivalent to 157 per cent. of sodium sulphate $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and the loss on drying at 100°C . was 29.5 per cent.

The weight of the sample was 2.64 ounces whereas that stated on the wrapper was 4 ounces.

Sodium sulphate of the British Pharmacopœia should contain not more than the equivalent of 102 per cent. of $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and should not lose less than 55 per cent. of its weight when dried at 100°C . The equivalent of $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in the above sample is therefore 53.9 per cent. in excess of the higher limit allowed by the B.P.

The sample had effloresced and become concentrated by the loss of water of crystallisation, which is confirmed by the loss of weight on drying and the loss of weight in the sample from 4 to 2.64 ounces, with the result that the actual dose taken would be greater than that recommended.

The vendor (a grocer) was interviewed and cautioned. He stated that the stock was bought six months previously and there was none left, and he would not purchase any more of this brand.

No. 1216—Tincture of Iodine (Informal). The bottle in which this sample was sold contained a camel hair brush passing through the rubber bung into the solution and this was almost certainly the cause of the deficiency of iodine.

The chemist was cautioned and advised to attach the brush to the outside of the bottle. He agreed to do this and to withdraw all the remaining bottles, containing the brush inside, from stock.

No. 1338—Analgesic Tablets (Informal). These tablets contained acetanilide a Part I poison and according to the Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933, Section 18 (1) c (iv), the sample should have been labelled with the address of the premises on which it was sold, but no such address appeared on the label.

The vendor was cautioned and his attention drawn to the requirements of the Act.

No. 1473—Whisky. The bottle from which this whisky was sold was labelled 70 per cent. proof spirit and the amount of added water on this basis was 11.7 per cent. This fact was given in evidence.

The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £50. He had had a previous conviction for selling milk containing added water.

Nos. 1595 and 1646—Butters. These samples were taken from the same shop and enquiries which were made brought to light the fact that the factory which sent out the butter had previously been convicted for having margarine in the butter room. It was also found that the vendor had warned the factory that samples had been taken, and as was to be expected, a visit paid to the factory revealed nothing suspicious, but it was found that the same mixer was used for butter and margarine. Two samples of butter taken from the factory proved to be genuine.

In my opinion the small amount of boric acid was introduced by admixture with margarine but the amount was too small to detect.

The factory was cautioned.

No. 2154—Savoury Sausages. This sample contained only 15 per cent. of total meat and 1/8d. per lb. was charged for it.

The manufacture and sale of savoury sausages is illegal. No action however can be taken if the meat content consists wholly of whalemeat. I was unable to test for the latter ingredient but I am of opinion that whether or not the meat was whalemeat the sale of this commodity is a fraudulent one as the price charged was so high and the meat content was so low.

I feel most strongly that this and similar products should be brought under control and standards fixed in order to safeguard the public.

No. 2194—Ground Almond Substitute. This sample consisted mainly of wheat flour together with approximately 20 per cent. of soya. The amount of oil present was only 3.85 per cent.

In my opinion a Ground Almond Substitute should contain at least 25 per cent. of fixed oil and should resemble the article for which it is a substitute.

A food substitute may not be sold except in the container in which and under the label and description under which it was sold by the manufacturers. This sample was sold loose and not in the container in which it was received from the manufacturers and therefore the sale was illegal apart from the question as to whether it is a satisfactory substitute for ground almonds.

Ice Cream.

Thirty-nine samples of ice cream were examined. The fat contents ranged from 0.3 to 10.6 per cent. with an average of 3.9 per cent., and the total solids from 16.7 to 40.0 per cent. It is again borne out that the price bears no relationship to the quality of the ice cream.

The average percentage of fat for the samples examined the previous year (1947) was 2.5 and only two, which were of well-known makes, contained over 5.0 per cent. of fat, whereas the average for the year under consideration is 3.9 per cent. and nine contained over 5.0 per cent. of fat and only one of these was a well-known make. Evidently there has been some improvement in the quality of ice cream during 1948, but, in spite of this, 49 per cent. contained less than 3.0 per cent. of fat.

A standard for, and a stricter definition of, ice cream is long overdue.

Meat Pies.

Twelve meat pies were received which on analysis gave the following results:—

No.	Price per pie.	Total weight ozs.	Weight of filling. %	Total meat in filling. %	Total meat in whole pie. %
1	1/6d.	12.8	27.3	80.0	22.0
2	1/-	11.2	39.3	22.0	8.7
3	1/6d.	12.0	25.0	71.0	20.5
4	4d.	9.0	49.0	83.8	40.7
5	4d.	9.0	13.9	77.5	10.8
6	6d.	10.2	31.4	95.2	29.5
7	4d.	8.5	48.2	70.7	34.1
8	8d.	7.4	36.5	30.9	11.3
9	4d.	6.8	38.2	89.8	34.2
10	4½d.	7.9	16.4	100.0	16.4
11	4d.	9.3	15.0	69.3	10.4
12	4d.	9.5	33.7	85.0	28.0

There is no standard for the amount of meat in these pies, but on the basis that a satisfactory meat pie should contain 50 per cent. of filling and the filling itself at least 50 per cent. of meat, then the percentage of meat in a pie of satisfactory quality would be 25 per cent. of the whole pie.

The above samples would be classified as follows:—

Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12	...	...	satisfactory.
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 11	...	...	unsatisfactory.

50 per cent. of meat in the filling, however, is a low standard for 9 of the 12 samples contained at least 70 per cent. and on this basis a satisfactory meat content of the whole pie would be 35 per cent. Only one of the above samples would then be classified as satisfactory.

An improvement in the quality of this commodity would result if a standard for minimum meat content was fixed or if the amount of meat had to be declared under the Labelling of Food Order.

Merchandise Marks Act.

Five samples of starch were submitted under the above Act. Three were genuine and the remaining two were from the same pack. A particular batch of this pack had been found to contain poison and these two samples were submitted with the object of ascertaining whether this batch was that which contained the poison. No poison was found but they contained no starch and consisted of 85 per cent. of calcium carbonate and 15 per cent. of a stiffening agent, possessing characters consistent with its being gum acacia.

The wrappers bore the statement:—"Starch Concentrated" which is a false description of the article.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

Work under this Act commenced in the laboratory on April 1st. The numbers of the various samples received are given below:—

Fertilisers (19).

Sulphate of Ammonia	...	...	...	6
Sulphate of Potash	...	...	...	3
Superphosphate	...	...	...	3
Nitrate of Soda	...	...	...	2
Hydrated Lime	...	...	...	1
Bone Meal	...	...	...	1
Limestone	...	...	...	2
Sludge	...	...	...	1

A statutory statement of composition has to accompany the sale of a fertiliser or feeding stuff and only in the case of two of the above samples was such a statement given. All the samples were taken informally except two from private sources and the attention of the vendors was drawn to the requirements of the Act with regard to the sale of small quantities in those cases in which no statement of composition was seen by the purchaser.

Feeding Stuffs (2).

One sample was a feeding stuff for chick-rearing which contained an excessive amount of mineral matter and was inferior in quality to the National Baby Chick Food.

The other was an official sample of Alfalfa Meal. This sample contained 29.2 per cent. of fibre and was sold without a statutory statement. The sellers were cautioned and the explanation offered was that it was a clerical error on the part of the invoice clerk. The statement was eventually sent to the purchaser and the amount of fibre was stated to be 27 per cent. The sample was therefore satisfactory, the amount of fibre being within the limit of variation allowed.

Chemical Analysis of Drinking Water.

Eighty samples of water were received as follows:—

For general analysis ...	...	...	...	51
S. R. & O. 2342 analysis ...	...	...	...	4
For action on metal pipes ...	...	...	...	23
Drinking water deposits ...	...	...	...	2

Sewages, effluents, etc.

A summary of the 163 samples received is given below:—

Sewages ...	...	...	...	4
Effluents (Sewage and Trade) ...	...	...	...	64
River and stream waters ...	...	...	...	89
Gas Works liquor ...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	4

The majority of the river and stream waters were taken for the purpose of collecting records of the changes which take place owing to the discharge of effluents, etc., into these watercourses.

Motor Spirit (Regulation) Act, 1948.

Twenty-five samples of petrol were submitted, fourteen from Somerset and eleven from Dorset.

Diphenylamine was found to be present in twenty of the samples and apart from two or three cases in which the volume of the sample was too small, they were all proved to be motor spirit within the meaning of the Act.

Miscellaneous Samples.

One hundred and nine samples were received from various sources during the year. A summary of these is given below:—

Foodstuffs ...	...	...	...	...	44
Drugs ...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples from the School Meals Section...	...	...	...	...	29
Petrol ...	...	...	...	...	14
Viscera for poisons ...	...	...	...	...	2
Other articles for poisons ...	...	...	...	...	8
Weedkillers ...	...	...	...	...	2
Soil ...	...	...	...	...	1
Clothing ...	...	...	...	...	1
Surface growth on water in reservoir ...	...	...	...	...	1
Deposits ...	...	...	...	...	2
Dye ...	...	...	...	...	1
Dust ...	...	...	...	...	1
Breast Milk ...	...	...	...	...	2

The samples of foodstuffs consisted mainly of various tinned foods which were the subject of complaints. In one case of tinned herrings, fermentative action was found to be the cause of the blown condition of the tin and these had to be condemned. Two tins of cooking fat were also too rancid for distribution by the Red Cross. Among the samples were sixteen milks submitted in connection with a complaint that the milk had a peculiar taste. The cause was traced to the supply from one particular producer, the milk from this source developed marked acidity in 24 hours.

A sample of milk alleged to be goat's milk was found to be cow's milk and that the amount of goat's milk, if any, was less than 20 per cent.

A number of samples were examined because of complaints that they had been the cause of illness of people who had eaten them, but in no case was the cause of the symptoms revealed by the chemical analysis of the foodstuffs submitted.

The single drug sample was an almond oil. A purchaser had had violent pains and diarrhœa after taking a dose of the oil and these symptoms were repeated after a second dose. A fairly exhaustive chemical analysis showed that the sample satisfied the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia but in view of the nature of the complaint a biological examination was carried out with human volunteers. The results showed that there must be a very small amount of impurity present which possessed irritant, purgative and very mild vesicant properties.

The samples from the School Meals Section were very varied. Twenty-one were foodstuffs and two detergents submitted by various firms in connection with tenders. The remainder were sent in because of complaints by the kitchen staffs.

The intestinal contents of a cow were received for analysis, as a cow had died and it was suggested that death was due to lead poisoning. Only 0.5 part of lead per million was found and this did not support the suggested cause of death.

The crop and gizzard of a chicken were submitted in connection with alleged poisoning by zinc phosphide (rat poison). Both organs possessed an odour of phosphine and its presence was confirmed by chemical tests. Zinc was found amounting to 1.91 grains and 0.25 grain of zinc phosphide in the crop and gizzard respectively which confirmed that zinc phosphide was the cause of death.

Eight stains on an article of clothing were examined for the presence of semen. A negative Florence's test was given by all and no spermatozoa were found. There was, therefore, no evidence of the presence of semen in these stains.

One sample of weedkiller contained 60 per cent. of magnesium chloride; a fire proofing agent, but no weedkiller. It transpired that this sample had been supplied in error. The other sample contained sodium chlorate and calcium chloride.

The two samples of breast milk gave the following results on analysis:—

No. 1. 4.85 per cent. of fat and 8.41 per cent. of solids-not-fat.

No. 2. 4.75 ,, ,, and 7.41 ,, ,, ,,

The low percentage of solids-not-fat in No. 2 was due to a low protein content.

The remaining samples do not call for special mention.



